

## Slater, Walker chief resigns in wake of Far East inquiries

Mr Slater resigned last night after a period of speculation about the company's future during which its share price fell by 10p to 35p. Immediately after the resignation, Slater, Walker Securities after a period of speculation about the company's future during which its share price fell by 10p to 35p. Immediately after the resignation, Slater, Walker Securities after a period of speculation about the company's future during which its share price fell by 10p to 35p.

## The Bank acts to avert crisis

Financial Staff Slater, best known of British financiers, resigned last night after a period of speculation about the company's future during which its share price fell by 10p to 35p. Immediately after the resignation, Slater, Walker Securities after a period of speculation about the company's future during which its share price fell by 10p to 35p.

## Disquiet over devolution as ministers meet

By George Clark Political Correspondent Cabinet ministers who disagree with the Government's proposals for the devolution of powers from Westminster to new assemblies in Scotland and Wales had their first opportunity to express their reservations yesterday when Mr Wilson announced a meeting of 21 ministers to Chequers.

One Scottish Labour MP said yesterday that the commitment in an assembly in Scotland in 1974 was an electoral device to "ditch" the Scottish Nationalists and that it was a millstone around the necks of the ministers who now had to find a legislative form for it.

## Women on strike bring Iceland to a stop

From Thorsteinn Thorsarensen Reykjavik, Oct 24 The women of Iceland went on strike today to demonstrate their importance to the country's economy.

## Three-day month for Chrysler in December

Chrysler's car assembly plant at Ryton, Coventry, is to work only eight days in November and three days in December. The company's car and commercial vehicle plants in England and Scotland have been operating a three and four-day week since the beginning of September, but the further cutback is the sharpest by any British motor

## General Franco has new heart attack but still clings to life

Madrid, Oct 24—General Franco suffered another heart attack tonight but continued to cling to life. Informed sources said the Head of State, who is 82, was drifting in and out of a coma.

## Mr Jenkins stops use of control unit at Wakefield prison

Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that no more prisoners were to be sent to the control unit at Wakefield prison, where they were kept in isolation. The decision comes after a campaign against the unit by people who alleged that sensory deprivation principles

## Companies seek up to 5p on petrol

Petrol and oil suppliers will make applications for higher prices to the Price Commission next week. All the leading companies, including Shell, British Petroleum and Esso, are in the final stages of drawing up a case for increasing prices

## Coup fears spread in Portugal

Extensive precautionary measures were taken yesterday by Copcon, the security command of the Portuguese armed forces in the face of growing fears of a coup attempt by both left and right-wing extremists. The armed forces were placed on the alert, road blocks went up throughout the country and

## Mr Craig expelled from UUUC

Mr William Craig, leader of the Ulster Vanguard Party, was expelled from the United Ulster Unionist Coalition yesterday. He said recently that talks should continue on the possibility of a government including members of the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party. Mr

## Scottish police powers report

Important changes in Scottish criminal procedure are recommended by the Thomson Committee, set up in 1970. They include powers of temporary arrest, authority to stop and search, the admission of tape

## 50pc French tax on pornography

The French National Assembly has decided to impose a 50 per cent tax on the profits of all "pornographic, perverse or violent publications and performances". The 50 per cent rate will also apply, without any deductions for professional expenses, to the remuneration

## US banks cut lending rate

Leading American banks reduced their prime lending rate yesterday from 8 per cent to 7 1/2 per cent, the first reduction in prime rates since May. The cut reflects recent steps taken by the federal reserve system to ease monetary policy

## Clocks go back

British Summer Time ends at 3 am tomorrow. Clocks should be put back one hour. British Summer Time starts again at 2 am on Sunday, March 21.

## On other pages

Leaders page 13 Letters: on Dr Coggan's appeal from Upeska Ananda and others; on Zimbas from Dr I. Berkovitch and Mr C. J. Walker. Leading articles: The unity of Britain; Spain's uncertain future. Arts, pages 10 and 11. Record reviews by Alan Blyth, Joan Chessell, John Higgins, William Mann and Stanley Saele. Features, pages 6 to 12. George Thompson says that the overblown public service is going to become an electoral issue; Michael Freedland on Al Jolson, the jazz singer who set America

## Second Turkish envoy murdered

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Oct 24 Gunmen shot dead the Turkish Ambassador to France, Mr Ismail Erez, along with his driver, in the centre of Paris this afternoon just two days after Turkey's envoy in Vienna was gunned down in his office.

## Bill on hare coursing fails again

By Our Parliamentary Staff The Hare Coursing Bill, which would make hare coursing matches illegal, failed to get through the Commons yesterday.

## SCHOOL FEES AHEAD?

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## or hid e size of de gap

Mr Westlake computer programming has led government plans to underestimate the 24 per cent deficit Britain is in the red reign trade accounts. The result is that the deficit current account element balance of payments is greater so far this year than was thought, and is at £14,344m.

## Dr Herrema pleads for his life from window

From Christopher Walker Monasterevin, Co Kildare Dr Tiede Herrema, the Dutch industrialist, signed by four armed kidnappers outside his home at Limerick three weeks ago, yesterday made a plea for help at gunpoint.

## opped headlights plan to go ahead

Mr Waymark, Minister for Transport, is going ahead with his proposal to make compulsory for drivers to use headlights at night. An attempt to put the proposal before Parliament last night failed because of the measure that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.







## E NEWS

Sources lavished on  
higher education at  
expense of the young

By Kershaw

Too long resources have been lavished on those who go to higher education, at the expense of the young people who have been shunted to the side at 15 or 16 years of age. This is the view of Ernest Armstrong, Under-Secretary of State for Education, in a letter to the Blyth Valley District Council, in Northumberland, Mr Wilson's private secretary said that the Prime Minister did not consider that it was for him to comment on the allegations.

"The question to be considered is whether they have caused such widespread public concern as to have created 'something in the nature of a nationwide crisis of confidence' in the words of the Royal Commission on Tribunals of Inquiry, headed by Lord Justice Salmon, the letter continued.

"This is a strict standard to apply, but it is one which has been accepted by successive governments since the royal commission reported in 1966."

The council's request had been supported by the local Labour Party and the Blyth Valley branch of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO). Mr Wilson's letter said that such tribunals could cause unwarranted anxiety, distress and injury to quite innocent people caught up in the issue.

The Prime Minister's refusal to set up a judicial tribunal into allegations of corruption confirms the similar refusal more than a year ago by the Labour Party's national executive to allow a party inquiry.

That request came from the northern regional council of the Labour Party. But last summer the executive published the report of a committee set up to investigate the conduct of Labour members of local councils.

Cuts urged to halt  
nursery education cuts

Services

Local education authorities are urged today to curb cuts in nursery education in the light of the findings of the Education Committee of the House of Commons. The committee's report, which was published yesterday, says that the Government should consider a statutory local education authority to fulfil nationally agreed targets for nursery education.

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Assets in  
oil  
exercise

Reporter

To test the ability of the oil industry to deal with a round Britain's oil field off Ploiești, the Government has ordered a series of exercises. The exercises will be carried out by the oil companies and the Ministry of Defence. The exercises will be carried out by the oil companies and the Ministry of Defence. The exercises will be carried out by the oil companies and the Ministry of Defence.

## Davis protest at top of Monument

Three members of the

Three members of the Flee George Davis campaign chained themselves to railings at the top of the Monument in London and threw away the keys yesterday.

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turn to first  
this Sunday?

Price 14p.

Which will you turn to first this Sunday? The men on the moon come down to earth. The men on the moon come down to earth. The men on the moon come down to earth.

Higher fees  
urged  
for overseas  
students

By Tim Devlin

Education Correspondent

Thousands of students in Britain should be charged much higher fees; at present they are paying "pennies" when the full cost of their education in this country was considered, Dr Keith Hampson, MP, secretary of the Conservative backbench education committee, said yesterday.

The proportion of foreign students in some university departments had reached ridiculous levels. The rate of increase in both universities and polytechnics had got out of hand.

Speaking at a meeting in Leicester, he said: "At Manchester Institute of Science and Technology the proportion of postgraduate overseas students has risen from 41 per cent to 47 per cent. In 1970 the proportion was 32 per cent."

"It is much the same tale throughout the country. As a proportion of the whole student population, overseas students have risen from 50 per cent to 57 per cent. Some of our most famous professors and states of our most expensive departments of higher education are educating considerably more overseas students than British students."

In 1971 two thirds of the civil engineering postgraduate students at the University of Manchester Institute of Technology were British; only a quarter were today. There was a similar trend at Imperial College London.

"It is a terrible indictment of our educational system that there is such a falling off of interest among British students in these key fields of engineering, technology and applied science," he said. "If our qualifications are so prized and there is such a demand, then more should be charged."

The tuition fees for foreign students, which were increased by £70 in September to £230 a year, were woefully inadequate. More and more overseas students were studying as postgraduates where the economic cost of some courses was as much as £5,000 a year.

The Department of Education and Science said yesterday that Dr Hampson's estimate that more than half the students in Britain came from overseas was an exaggeration. In 1973-74 there were about 95,000 overseas students in a total roll of 544,000 students in higher education in the United Kingdom, and another 204,000 doing non-degree work at colleges of further education. That did not include another three million students on part-time courses or attending evening classes.

College staff  
seek end to  
trust's role

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

Tutorial staff at Fircroft College, Birmingham, said yesterday in a statement to the public inquiry into the college's affairs that in future the Department of Education and Science should administer and finance the college.

Speaking as members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, they said the staff of the Fircroft Trust for all its interests in the college, which is a residential one for adult education. They said a reconstructed governing body should include trade union representatives, as well as students. At present there was a predominance of the Cadbury family among the trustees.

The college, which was founded in 1909 by George Cadbury, has stopped its one-year residential adult courses on the grounds that trade union students were unmanageable.

The inquiry has been told that earlier in the year an activist group called for changes in the college's constitution and excluded Mr A. J. Corfield, the principal, from the teaching programme.

Mr Trevor Blackwell, an English and psychology tutor, said in evidence that although more than 90 per cent of the college's income came from the Department of Education and Science and local authority grants, it was controlled by a private trust which was not answerable to any outside body. The last term had been an experiment in self-education, but the governors and trustees had treated it as rebellion.

Mr Robert Milson, history teacher, said his colleagues considered that the immediate cause of the college's difficulties over the past five years had been the conduct of Mr Corfield who was a former trade union education officer.

Denial of left militancy in  
polytechnic's troubles

By Our Education

Correspondent

Troubles at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, London, were not caused by a group of militant left-wing lecturers, the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, said yesterday. Mr Tom Jones, association senior liaison officer, said it was ridiculous to compare the situation there with events at the Polytechnic of North London.

He said that last year 60 or 70 members of his association had walked out of the polytechnic's Westminster College site because there was an intolerable atmosphere. "Some were left-wingers no doubt, but there were also right-wingers and some very senior lecturers. If one lecturer was a communist, there was another who described himself as a 'Powellite Conservative'."

Mr Jones was replying to criticisms of his association's part in the dispute, made by the Association of Polytechnic Lecturers, the much smaller rival union. Earlier this year a tribunal set up by the polytechnic dismissed all 13 charges, apart from a third of one complaint, against Mrs Lilian Geach, former acting head of business studies, now course director in the department.

Mrs Geach said yesterday that she had no confidence in a working party which had recently been set up to keep a watch on the future running of her department. Three out of six members were ATI representatives. Nor one member, including the director and chairman of the governors, was sympathetic to her or to colleagues who thought along similar lines.

## Davis protest at top of Monument

Three members of the

Three members of the Flee George Davis campaign chained themselves to railings at the top of the Monument in London and threw away the keys yesterday.

## British Rail bans 500 schoolchildren

From Our Correspondent

More than 500 schoolchildren have been banned from rail travel between the Clyde coast stations of Balloch and Dalreoch because of what a British Rail spokesman in Glasgow last night described as a "constant wave of vandalism and hooliganism by pupils travelling on the morning service since the start of the present school year."

It is believed that this is the first time British Rail has taken such action against individual schools. Railway trade unions announced that from next Monday they will refuse to carry passengers on certain morning, lunchtime, and afternoon services between those two stations. Regular travellers will be taken by bus.

The children are from the Notre Dame High School and St Patrick's High School in Dalreoch. They will not be allowed to travel on any other services.

## Good demand in contemporary art sale

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York sold three fifths of their important postwar and contemporary art on Thursday night out of a knockdown total of £481,267. That is not too bad for a contemporary sale, where auctioneers always have difficulty matching the prices charged by artists' dealers; but it included many works sold below estimate.

The top price was \$85,000 (£40,909) for Robert Rauschenberg's "Retroactive II" of 1964. The same estimate had been put on Richard Lindner's "No" of 1966, which was bought in at \$65,000 (£31,707). In London yesterday bidding on Victorian paintings at Christie's proved much stronger than last season. An attractive, unfinished oil sketch of "Queen Victoria on Horseback" by Edwin Landseer, went to a private collector at £10,972.50 inclusive of premium, (estimate £3,000-£5,000).

A charming genre scene with children at play, entitled "The Young Photographers", by Frederick Daniel Hardy, made £9,240 (estimate £1,500-£2,500). The painting is dated 1862 and the price is above expectations for this type of oil. Leggat paid £4,620 (estimate £2,000-£3,000) for an oil sketch by Landseer, "A Rainy Day in the Highlands".

On Thursday Christie's held two sales in Canada: one of Eskimo art, the second of pictures, at which the top price was \$28,000 (£12,962) for "A Lake in Labrador", of 1930, by Alexander Young Jackson. The National Portrait Gallery acquired an album of the Royal Family and household at Balmoral, 27 photographs, from the 1850s and 1860s. The price was £451 (estimate £50-£100). Sotheby's furniture sale in Bond Street yesterday totalled £21,674. In Amsterdam the



Part of a photograph of John Brown and Queen Victoria, included in an album taken at Balmoral in the 1850s and 1860s, now acquired by the National Portrait Gallery.

for a group of 60 photographs from the 1870s by the American Timothy H. O'Sullivan. The National Portrait Gallery acquired an album of the Royal Family and household at Balmoral, 27 photographs, from the 1850s and 1860s. The price was £451 (estimate £50-£100). Sotheby's furniture sale in Bond Street yesterday totalled £21,674. In Amsterdam the

night before Sotheby's Mak van Way sold modern prints for a total of £38,321, recording an unsold percentage of 0.9. The top price was 14,500 guilders (£3,086, including 16 per cent buyers' premium) for a lithograph of 1943 by M. C. Escher titled "Septimien". An unused Tête-bêche pair of King George V 1d bright scarlet stamps, 1912-22, was bought for £3,200 against an estimate of £2,400 by W. E. Lea Ltd, at Stanley Gibbons' two-day auction. Great Britain postage stamps.

The last time that pair was offered for sale at auction was in November, 1966, when it realised £200. It will be on show at the British Philatelic Exhibition at Seymour Hall, London, next week.

## 'Mr Stonehouse said he had to escape'

Mr Kenneth Harington, the magistrate hearing criminal proceedings against John Stonehouse, the MP, and Mrs Sheila Buckley, was told yesterday of an interview with Mr Stonehouse by an inspector in the Federal Australian Police.

During the interview, Det Inspector John Sullivan said at the Federal Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, Mr Stonehouse spoke of a "great deal of business and political pressure" and also "blackmail by certain individuals".

Mr Stonehouse, Labour MP for Walsall North, faces 23 charges, including theft, conspiracy and fraud, and Mrs Buckley faces six charges.

At the start of yesterday's hearing Mr Gerald Gordon, for the defence of Mrs Buckley, drew attention to an inconsistency in some reports of the letters read to the court on Thursday. A sentence in the first letter was reported as: "They suspect me of murder." It should have been: "They suspect B

of murder because of insurance."

Mr Sullivan said Mr Stonehouse admitted during the interview that he used a passport in the name of Markham to get into Australia and that he obtained the passport by presenting a birth certificate in that name to the Passport Office in London.

He obtained the birth certificate by application to Somerset House after finding Mr Markham was dead by making inquiries at hospitals about persons in his age group who had died.

Mr Stonehouse was asked: "Do you appreciate that, you entered Australia by using a passport which had been obtained by false representation?" and "Mr Stonehouse replied: 'Yes'."

Asked why he obtained the passport in the name of Markham, Mr Stonehouse allegedly told the inspector: "It was my wish to establish a new identity and to come to Australia in that name."

Asked why, Mr Stonehouse replied: "I was subjected to a great deal of business and political pressure in England and I was also subject to blackmail by certain individuals. I felt I had to escape from them."

Asked what he meant by "blackmail", Mr Stonehouse said:

I helped to establish a bank at the invitation of the Bengali community. This was just after Bangladesh had emerged as a country. I had no wish for personal gain but I accepted the position as unpaid chairman to get the bank established.

However, before the issue of shares in a London newspaper, "The Sunday Times", published an article which was damaging. That caused the issue of shares to be not as successful as we had hoped.

In order to save the institution, I had to put all my personal resources into it in the form of shares. Subsequently, in the last year in England there has been a financial crisis and the smaller banks have collapsed. Our institution was no exception. It did not collapse be-

Mr Wilson  
rejects  
'corruption'  
inquiry call

By a Staff Reporter

The Prime Minister has rejected a request from a council in the north-east of England to set up a judicial inquiry into allegations of corruption in local government.

In a letter to Blyth Valley District Council, in Northumberland, Mr Wilson's private secretary said that the Prime Minister did not consider that it was for him to comment on the allegations.

"The question to be considered is whether they have caused such widespread public concern as to have created 'something in the nature of a nationwide crisis of confidence' in the words of the Royal Commission on Tribunals of Inquiry, headed by Lord Justice Salmon, the letter continued.

"This is a strict standard to apply, but it is one which has been accepted by successive governments since the royal commission reported in 1966."

The council's request had been supported by the local Labour Party and the Blyth Valley branch of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO). Mr Wilson's letter said that such tribunals could cause unwarranted anxiety, distress and injury to quite innocent people caught up in the issue.

The Prime Minister's refusal to set up a judicial tribunal into allegations of corruption confirms the similar refusal more than a year ago by the Labour Party's national executive to allow a party inquiry.

That request came from the northern regional council of the Labour Party. But last summer the executive published the report of a committee set up to investigate the conduct of Labour members of local councils.

Police chief told  
not to buy  
more Volvos

Lincolnshire councillors

Lincolnshire councillors yesterday stopped their police chief from buying Swedish Volvo petrol cars to replace those in use in the county force because it was "an important national matter".

The Chief Constable, Mr Lawrence Byford, told the police committee that 25 Volvos bought in 1971 had proved the most reliable and economical of all the various cars used in that work. He recommended that they keep at least 25 Volvos, the only foreign cars in the 274-vehicle fleet.

But a group of councillors, led by Dr David Gutteridge, chairman of the finance committee, said the Volvo had been compared unfairly on economical grounds with bigger and faster Triumphs and Rovers.

British Airways challenges  
off-peak fares concession

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

It will be cheaper to fly from Gatwick airport, London, on the domestic trunk routes at off-peak times than from Heathrow because of a decision by the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday.

Single fares from November 1 will be £23 from both London airports at peak times, but off-peak fares will be £21 at Gatwick.

British Airways said last night that they will appeal against the CAA decision, which would make fares higher than was right at present, and which discriminated against passengers using Heathrow.

British Caledonian, the independent airline, countered by stating that BA had recently said they would lose more than £2.8m this year and £7m next year on domestic routes. Yet they were claiming that fare increases decided by the CAA were too high.

"It appears that they are intent on scoring public relations points, while throwing good public money after bad," British Caledonian said.

The CAA decision favours British Caledonian, which operates out of Gatwick, against British Airways, whose main base is at Heathrow. The Gatwick discount fare may slow

## down the increase in passenger numbers which is being attracted by BA's walk-on shuttle service between London and Glasgow.

The CAA said yesterday that the differential was designed to secure a modest shift in the balance of traffic between Heathrow and Gatwick.

Increases in fares allowed by the CAA will add £4 to the single fare on the domestic trunk routes between London and Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast, and will put up the price of a single first-class ticket from £28.50 to £34.

But the CAA have also allowed the introduction of a cheap "instant purchase" fare asked for by British Caledonian between Gatwick and Edinburgh and Glasgow at weekends. If seats are available when intending passengers arrive at the airport, they will be able to buy a return ticket for £25.

Both the main British airlines have indicated that they will be seeking further increases on domestic routes from April 1. The CAA said yesterday that the logic in allowing the present series of rises was simple. "Domestic air fares need urgently to rise, in real terms, if the services themselves, now mostly operated at heavy loss, are to survive."

Man cleared in  
'Ginger' Marks  
murder trial

Because of insufficient evidence of identification, one of four men accused of the murder 10 years ago of Thomas Albert "Ginger" Marks, an East End car dealer, was acquitted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Ronald Everett, aged 44, a driver, of Woodstock Road, Harold Wood, Romford, London, who had pleaded not guilty to involvement in the alleged murder, was discharged by Mr Justice Donaldson.

Mr Jeremy Hutchinson, QC, his counsel, had told the judge and jury that evidence of identification against his client was unsatisfactory. The prosecution, led by Mr John Mathew, accepted his submission.

## Correction

It was incorrectly stated in *The Times* on Saturday, October 18 (page 1) that the 43 diocesan bishops of the Church of England had declined a rise in salary of £300. Last April the Church Commissioners raised the basic stipend of a diocesan bishop by £300 to £4,585. Some bishops then declined to take their entitlement in full. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, disclosed during a radio interview last week that he too had asked for his support to be reduced below his full entitlement, which is current: £4,420.

# THE OBSERVER

26 OCTOBER 1975

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PARLIAMENT, October 24, 1975

## Too few MPs in vote on hare coursing: Bill fails to get through

House of Commons

The Hare Coursing Bill was considered on report.

SIR DAVID RENTON (Huntingdonshire, C) moved a new clause (Duration of Act) which he said, was based on the assumption that the Bill would one day receive Royal Assent. The effect of the new clause would be to give the Act a clear run for five hare coursing seasons; then all that would be needed to continue it in force indefinitely would be the passing of an affirmative resolution in both Houses.

It was considered with another new clause (Amendment of section 1) which, he said, was designed to allow local option to operate on a district basis and a number of amendments the effect of which would be to postpone the coming into force of the Act until six months after Royal Assent and then to enable the Home Secretary to appoint different days for the Act to come into force in different areas.

He said that supporters of the Bill were on the horns of a dilemma. On one hand the Bill was highly controversial, unwanted by many thousands of country people of all classes, and regarded as a crime against tradition since the advent of history. But on the other the Bill would not achieve its purpose unless it was unenforceable against small scale coursing. It would fall in its purpose because many hares which had a quick, certain death by being coursed would have a slow and lingering death in snares or after several days of being shot and wounded. There was the dilemma. He wanted to lift the Bill's supporters off the horns of that dilemma.

MR RIDLEY (Chichester and Tewkesbury, C) said it was obvious that hare coursing was being discussed when the world had been discussing the prevention of animal cruelty. One of the worst vices of the world, one of the worst vices of the British character was the cruel treatment of animals. It was the only country which had a Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, but probably did not need one.

Hare coursing was not cruel, or in any degree different from other ways in which animals were killed by man or other animals. He did not like the sport being picked on by a group of people wishing to impose their will on the rest.

Traditional country sports were no business of those who did not engage in them. In the same way it would not be right for country people to impose upon people in towns some sort of control over the keeping of pets. In some cases people kept dogs, cats, ferrets or birds in small cages.

It was nature's way that animals were cruel to each other. Every animal lived on other animals. It was a natural function of the dog to chase the hare.

Man himself was not involved. It was impossible to make any value judgment on whether it is more cruel to shoot, trap, or course the hare.

It was impossible to get pleasure out of something involving death and cruelty to animals. One had to consider the animal's feelings and the animal's life.

That would lead to all other forms of activity where man has animals from the point of view of sport or even food. They should consider what happens on farms in the unpleasant process of rearing of young animals when they were born and disgusting sights in the slaughter houses.

People took enjoyment in the cruelty and unpleasant processes that went into producing roast beef.

People should at local level be given the option to decide on hare coursing. There was no reason why those who lived in London or Liverpool should be allowed to impose on the people of their constituency.

Would it be right for country people to decide to ban football because of the damage to trees and football pitches caused by big cities when there was a riot?

MR LAMOND (Oldham, East, Lab) said Mr Ridley was attempting to defeat the Bill by the addition of the two new clauses.

MR HASTINGS (Mid-Bedfordshire, C) said there had not been time to conduct anywhere near as deep an inquiry as was required.

into the welfare of the hare, into its way of life and into the effects of the legislation.

MR MATHER, for the Opposition (Essex, C) said the group of amendments were put down because the Conservatives considered it had legislation founded on misconception.

The object of the amendments was to give time for second thoughts. Since it was the Government's determination to get the Bill it was the job of the Opposition to see the legislation was soundly based. The object, however, was not simply to delay but to allow time for the Government to see if it was right.

DR SHIRLEY SUMMERSKILL, Under Secretary, Home Office (Hull, Lab), said it would be wrong to prohibit hare coursing for five years and then allow it to continue unless Parliament decided otherwise.

If it were a cruel sport in 1975 it would be a cruel sport in any future time too. If MPs were genuinely concerned to ensure the preservation of hares, they should look for some other method different from this cowardly sport. There was nothing to stop an inquiry into the hare population being carried out, but they did not wish to see this sport continued in the meantime.

On local options, there was no clear delineation of opinion between town and country on hare coursing. It was true that there were precedents of local police, but the circumstances to which they related were different from the subject of the Bill. They were creating a new criminal offence and its justification was that hare coursing was a barbaric sport and wherever it occurred.

Hare coursing (like wet and dry) was a cruel, and should be illegal, irrespective of whether some people take a particular view in different areas.

The coursing world had been discussing the prevention of animal cruelty. There was no justification for bringing the provisions of the Bill in by order as there was no administrative or preparatory work to be done.

The new clause relating to the duration of the Act was withdrawn.

The new clause providing for local option was rejected by 59 votes to 68—Government majority, 21.

On Clause 1 (Hare coursing matches to be illegal), MR MATHER, for the Opposition (Essex, C) moved an amendment in relation to the part of the Bill which states it would be an offence for a person who causes, or assists at, or knowingly permits or suffers any place to be used in a hare coursing competition. The amendment sought to delete the words "or assists at".

DR SUMMERSKILL said the words "or assists at" were made it easier to prosecute successfully some spectators whose presence might not be sufficiently ambiguous in character to prosecute them as aiders and abettors.

After further debate, a Government motion that the debate be closed resulted in 55 votes in favour and no votes against.

THE SPEAKER (Mr Selwyn Lloyd) said that as less than 100 MPs had voted to support the closure the question was not decided in the affirmative and debate on the clause could continue.

MR WELLS (South-West Devon, Lab) moved that the debate stand adjourned.

MR RIDLEY said he for one had felt that the occasion should not pass without the Government's word that the Government's word was that the debate would be closed.

MR FELL (Yarmouth, C)—Can we know where the strongest proponents of this measure have been this afternoon? The Leader of the House (Mr Short) has always been its strongest proponent. Where is he?

MR MATHER said it was almost certain that the Home Secretary (Mr Jenkins) had not been present during any stage of the Bill. If the measure really had his support he should at least have shown his face during this debate. The Bill had been mismanaged and they did not wish it any luck. House adjourned, 5.25 pm.

## Two defeats on land Bill

House of Lords

The Community Land Bill was further considered in committee.

On Schedule 4 (Acquisition and appropriation of land), VISCOUNT COLVILLE OF CULROSS (C) moved an amendment to the first of three paragraphs concerned with the circumstances in which it was unnecessary to have a compulsory purchase order.

The amendment, which restricted the scope for dispensing with the compulsory purchase order, was carried by 73 votes to 33—majority against the Government, 40.

LADY YOUNG (C), for the Opposition, moved an amendment putting the owner-occupier outside the discretion given in the Secretary of State for the Environment to disregard objections and dispense with public inquiries in certain circumstances.

She said the principle of the Bill would remain intact. Her intention was merely to maintain the rights at present enjoyed by an owner-occupier at a public inquiry.

The amendment was carried by 44 votes to 32—majority against the Government, 12.

The committee stage was adjourned.

House adjourned, 4.7 pm.



Moroccans are driven in lorries towards the border of Spanish Sahara yesterday to take part in the peaceful march on the colony inspired by King Hassan.

## Moroccan minister in Spain for Sahara talks

From Ronald Emile Marrakech, Oct 24

Diplomatic activity increased today in the dispute over the Spanish Sahara. Dr Ahmed Laraki, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, flew to Madrid for consultations with the Spanish Government.

Dr Laraki said that his mission was being undertaken in the spirit of this week's resolution of the United Nations Security Council which called for a continuing dialogue over the disputed Spanish colony and for restraint from all parties.

He refused to comment on reports circulating in Marrakech that agreement over the Spanish Sahara was imminent and that Spain was about to cede the territory to Morocco.

Earlier today Moroccan government sources again stated that King Hassan's "peaceful march" into the Spanish Sahara would take place despite political developments. However, the present timetable suggests that all the 350,000 marchers will not reach the border for at least another week.

Observers in Marrakech believe that the Moroccan Government may be slowing down the movement of convoys towards the border so that in the event of a diplomatic settlement to the dispute the march could become one of celebration rather than "liberation".

The marchers themselves are in no mood to be turned back without crossing the border. One minister said today: "How can we stop the people now?"

If Spain does cede what is effectively the last colony in Africa to Morocco it will cause a problem for Algeria, which also has a border with Spanish Sahara. The Algerian Government has been supporting the Polisario Front guerrillas who are seeking independence for the territory. Algeria earlier this week condemned King Hassan's planned march and unification with Morocco. Such has been the weight of support for the King's claim to the territory from both Arab and African states that Algeria may be forced to back down, leaving King Hassan with a much improved position in Morocco and increased standing in the Arab world.

Madrid: Dr Laraki arrived in Madrid today for what appears to be a final agreement with Spain for the handing over of Spanish Sahara to Morocco.

A Spanish official said: "After the United Nations let us down, there is no other alternative because Spain in no case would ever war with Morocco over the territory."

Sources in Madrid said that an important point in the negotiations would be the future of the Bu-Cra phosphate deposits into which Spain has invested 25,000 pesetas (£23m) which it wanted reimbursed by Morocco.

Alternatively, the sources said, would be to create a Spanish-Moroccan concern for jointly exploiting the deposits for a certain period—AP.

Camak: Colonel Moussa Traore, the Mali head of state, today appealed to King Hassan to exercise "restraint and moderation" over Spanish Sahara.

Agence France Presse, Algiers: The Polisario Front today denounced the planned Moroccan march as a revival of the Nazi theory of Lebensraum.

—Reuter.

## How Mr Mitchell returned to answer questions on Capitol Hill

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Oct 24

Mr John Mitchell returned to the Capitol today. Mr Nixon's Attorney-General gave evidence to a Senate committee investigating intelligence matters in the same ornate hall in which the Watergate affair was first exposed to the public on television two years ago.

Mr Mitchell has not changed. He has the same lawyer. Many of the same reporters were there. Senator Howard Baker, the Watergate committee's senior chairman, is now deputy chairman of the committee on intelligence. It was quite like old times.

Mr Mitchell's evidence was also familiar. He denied that any of his subordinates or the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency had ever told him that mail was being opened. This seemed to conflict with what Mr Richard Helms, who was director of the CIA at the time, told the committee recently.

Mr Mitchell saw no inconsistency and flatly stated that he did not know that mail was being opened, and now you say that the Attorney General did not know that mail was being opened," he shouted. "What I want to know is who was running the Government?"

Mr Mitchell replied: "Do you mean the mail opening part or some other part?" A President could not control every detail of government. Security operations should be entrusted to responsible officials in the CIA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation under guidelines laid down by the Executive, Congress and the courts.

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## Car used in kidnap of British consul found

Addis Ababa, Oct 24

Police have found the car used yesterday to kidnap Mr Basil Burwood-Taylor, the British honorary consul in the northern Ethiopian city of Asmara, a British Embassy spokesman said today.

The car was tracked down late last night in Asmara, itself the capital of the province of Eritrea. The hunt for the missing consul was continuing.

Two men seized Mr Burwood-Taylor, who is 58, and drove him away in a car owned by the company for which the consul worked. The kidnappers were believed to be members of an Eritrean secessionist group.

The embassy spokesman said that Britain's new Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr Derek Day, was expected to arrive here today, a day ahead of schedule because of the kidnapping. An Embassy official might be moved from the capital to Asmara to replace Mr Burwood-Taylor.—Reuter.

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## Canberra civil servants asked to work without pay

Canberra, Oct 24

Mr Gough Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, who is fighting an Opposition attempt to force a general election, tonight appealed to federal public servants to work without pay after the Government's funds dry up late next month.

He promised the 277,000 employees, whose support could be crucial if the Labour Government is to stay in power, that all salaries would eventually be paid.

His appeal came after the Opposition parties blocked Government budget bills to force the Government to resign.

Mr Whitlam said that when salary payments were suspended or curtailed the Government would seek to sustain essential services. "To this end, the Government would expect all its employees, to whom we have to look for the provision of so many vital services, to continue in employment and to work normally," he said.

It was Mr Whitlam's first intimation that he expected the crisis to continue beyond November.—Reuter.

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## Antigua death sentence for double murder

St John's, Antigua, Oct 24

Judge Eric Bishop yesterday pronounced the death sentence by hanging on Charles Joseph, aged 45, a gardener, after a jury convicted him of



# The rape of Kingdom Hill

by Dick Francis

Thursday afternoon, Tricksey Wilcox scratched his armpit absently and decided Claypits wasn't worth backing in the two-thirty. Tricksey Wilcox sprawled in his sagging armchair with a half-drunk can of beer within comforting reach and a huge colour television bringing him the blow-by-blow from the opening race of the three-day meeting at Kingdom Hill. Only mugs, he reflected complacently, would be putting in a nine-to-five stint in the sort of July heatwave that would have done justice to the Sahara. Sensible guys like himself sat around at home with the windows open and their shirts off, letting their beards grow while the sticky afternoon waned towards opening-time.

In winter Tricksey was of the opinion that only mugs struggled to travel to work through snow and sleet, while sensible guys stayed warm in front of the TV, betting on the jumpers; and in spring there was rain, and in the autumn fog. Tricksey, at 34, had brought unemployment to a fine art and considered the idea of a full, honest day's work to be a joke. It was Tricksey's wife who went out in all weathers to her job in the supermarket, and Tricksey's wife who paid the rent of the council flat and left the exact money for the milkman. Eleven years of Tricksey had left her cheerful, unresentful and practical. She had waited without emotion through his two nine-month spells in prison, accepted that one day would find him back there. Her dad had been in and out of all her childhood. She felt at home with the minor criminal mind.

Tricksey watched Claypits win the 2.30 with insulting ease and drank down his dentated steem with the last of the beer. Nothing he bloody touched, he thought gloomily, was any bloody good these days. He was distinctly short of the remedies and had once or twice had to cut down on necessities like drink and fags. What he wanted, now, was a nice little wheeze, a nice little tickle, to con a lot of unsuspecting mugs into opening their wallets. The scarce ticket racket, now that had done him proud for years, until the coppers nicked him with a stack of forged duplicates in his pocket at Wimbledon. And tourists were too fly by half these days, you couldn't sell them subscriptions to non-existent porn magazines, let alone London Bridge.

He could never afterwards work out exactly what gave him the Great Bandwagon idea. One minute he was peacefully watching the 3.0 at Kingdom Hill, and the next he was flooded with a breathtaking, wild, and unholy glee. He laughed aloud. He slapped his thigh. He stood up and jigged about, unable to bear the audacity of his thoughts sitting down. "Oh Moses," he said, gulping for air. "Money for old rope. Kingdom Hill, here I come."

Tricksey Wilcox was not the most intelligent of men. Friday morning, Major Kevin Cawdor-Jones, manager of Kingdom Hill racecourse, took his briefcase to the routine meeting of the executive committee, most of whom detested each other. Owned and run by a small private company, constantly engaged in boardroom wars, the racecourse suffered from the results of spiteful internecine decisions and never made the profit it could have done.

Roskin spoke patronizingly, knowing that nothing infuriated Bellamy more. Bellamy's face darkened with anger, and the security of the racecourse, like much else, was left to the outcome of a personal quarrel. Bellamy insisted, "We need bigger barriers, specialized extra locks on all internal doors, and double the number of police. Work must start at once."

"Racetracks are not hooligans, my dear Bellamy," Cawdor-Jones inwardly groaned. He found it tedious enough already, on non-race days, to make his tours of inspection, and he was inclined anyway not to stick pugnaciously to those safeguards which already existed. Bigger barriers between enclosures would mean he could no longer climb over or through, but would have to walk the long ways round. More locks meant more keys, more time wasting, more nuisance. And all presumably for the sake of frustrating the very few scoundrels who tried to cross from cheaper to dearer enclosures without paying. He thought he would very much prefer the status quo.

The tempers rose around him, and the voices also. He waited resignedly for a gap. "Er..." he said, clearing his throat. The heated pro-Bellamy faction and the sneering pro-Roskin clique both turned towards him hopefully. Cawdor-Jones was their mutual leonard, except, accepted that one day would find him back there. Her dad had been in and out of all her childhood. She felt at home with the minor criminal mind.

"A lot of extra security would mean more work for our staff," he said diffidently. "We might have to take on an extra man or two to cope with it... and after the big initial outlay there would always be maintenance... er... well, what real harm can anyone do to a racetrack?" This weak oil stilled the waters enough for both sides to begin their retreat with their positions and opinions intact.

"You have a point about the staff," Bellamy conceded grudgingly, knowing that two extra men would cost a great deal more than locks, and that the racecourse couldn't afford them. "But I still maintain that tighter security is essential and very much overdue." Cawdor-Jones, in his easy-going way, privately disagreed. Nothing had ever happened to date. Why should anything ever happen in future? The discussion grumbled on for half an hour, and nothing at all was done.

Friday afternoon, Tricksey Wilcox went to the races, having pinched a tenner from his wife's holiday fund in the best season. His trip was a recipe to spy out the land, and Tricksey, walking around with his greedy eyes wide open, couldn't stop himself chuckling. It did occur to him once or twice that his light-hearted single-handed approach was a waste: the big boys would have had it all planned to a second and would have set their sights high in their humourless way. But Tricksey was a loner who avoided gang life on the grounds that it was too much like hard work; bossed around all at time, and with no pension rights into the bargain. He downed half pints of beer at various bars and wandered smallish amounts on the tote. He looked at the horses in the parade ring and identified the jockeys whose faces he knew from TV, and he attentively watched the races. At the end of the afternoon, with modest winnings keeping him solvent, he chuckled his way home.

He wasted on gambling would, she felt, solve all her problems handsomely. But honesty was a lifetime habit; and besides, stealing from the Tote was impossible. The takings for each race were collected and checked immediately. Theft would be instantly revealed. Angelisa sighed and tried to resign herself to the imminent cutting off of her telephone. Saturday morning, Tricksey Wilcox dressed himself carefully for the job in hand. His wife, had she not been stacking baked beans in the supermarket, would have advised against the fluorescent orange socks. Tricksey, seeing his image in the bedroom mirror only as far down as the knees, was confident that the dark suit, dim tie and bowler hat gave him the look of a proper racing-going gent. He had even, without reluctance, cut two inches off his hair, and removed a flourishing moustache. Complete with outside binoculars case slung over his shoulder he smirked at his transformation with approval and set out with light step to catch the train to Kingdom Hill.

On the racecourse Major Kevin Cawdor-Jones made his race-day round of inspection with his usual lack of thoroughness. Slipped holes in his management reached the police contingent arriving half an hour late and under strength; and not enough racecards had been ordered from the printers.

"Not to worry," said Cawdor-Jones, shrugging it off easily. Mrs. Angelisa Ludville travelled to the course in the Tote's own coach, along with 50 colleagues. She looked out of the window at the passing suburbs and thought gloomily about the price of electricity. Saturday afternoon at the two-thirty, the extra-long queues would be forming soon outside, and speed and efficiency in serving the punters was not only her job, but, indeed, her pride.

At two-fifty-five Cawdor-Jones was in his office next to the weighing-room trying to sort out a middle over the casual workers' pay. At two-fifty-seven the telephone at his elbow rang for the twentieth time in the past two hours and he picked up the receiver with his mind still on the disputed hourly rate due to the sickle-back of kicked-up chunks of turf.

"Cawdor-Jones," he said automatically. A man with an Irish accent began speaking quietly. "What?" said Cawdor-Jones. "Speak up, can't you. There's too much noise here... I can't hear you."

The man with the Irish accent repeated his message in the same soft half-whisper. "What?" said Cawdor-Jones. But his caller had rung off. "Oh my God," said Cawdor-Jones, and stretched a hand to the switch which connected him to the internal broadcasting system. He glanced urgently at the clock. Its hands clicked round to two-fifty-nine, and at that moment the 14 runners for the three o'clock were being led into the starting stalls.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said Cawdor-Jones, his voice reverberating from every loud-speaker on the racecourse. "We have been warned that a bomb has been placed somewhere in the stands. Would you please all leave at once and go over to the centre of the course while the police arrange a search."

The moment of general shock lasted less than a second. Then the huge racecrowd streamed like a river down from the steps, up from the tunnel, out of the doors, running, elbowing towards the far side of the open spaces on the far side of the track.

Bars emptied dramatically with half-full glasses overturned and smashed in the panic. The Tote queues melted instantaneously and the ticket-sellers followed them helter-skelter. The stewards vacated their high box at a dignified downhill rush and the racing Press pell-melled for the exit without hanging about to alert their papers. City editors could wait half an hour. Bombs wouldn't.

The deserted all the racecourse buildings within a space of two minutes. Only a very few stayed behind, and chief of those was Kevin Cawdor-Jones, who had never lacked for personal

courage and now saw it as his duty as a soldier to remain at his post.

The under-strength band of policemen collected bit by bit outside the weighing room, each man hiding his natural apprehension under a reassuring front. Probably another bloody hoax, they told each other. It was always a hoax. Or... nearly always. Their officer took charge of organising the search and told the civilian, Cawdor-Jones, to remove himself to safety.

"No, no," said Cawdor-Jones. "While you look for the bomb, I'll make quite sure that everyone's out." He smiled a little anxiously and dived purposefully into the weighing room.

All clear there, he thought, peering rapidly round the jockeys' washroom. All clear in the judge's box, the photo-finish developing room, the kitchens, the boiler room, the Tote, the offices, the stores.

He hustled from building to building, knowing all the backrooms, the nooks and crannies where some deaf member of the staff, some drunk member of the public, might be sitting unawares.

He saw no people. He saw no bomb. He returned a little breathlessly to the open space outside the weighing room and waited for a report from the slower police.

Wilcox was putting the Great Bandwagon idea into sloppy execution. Chuckling away internally over the memory of an Irish impersonation, good enough for an entry to Equity, he hustled speedily from bar to bar and in and out of other doors, filling his large empty binocular case with provender. It was amazing, he thought, giggling, how careless people were in a panic.

Twice, he came face to face with policemen. "All clear in there, officer," he said pompously, each time pointing back to where he had been. Each time the police gaze flickered unsuspectingly over the bowler hat, the dark suit, the dim tie and took him for one of the racecourse staff. Only the orange socks

stopped him getting clean away. One policeman, watching him receding backward, frowned uncertainly at the brilliant segments between trouser leg and shoe, and started slowly after him.

"Hey..." he said. Tricksey turned his head, saw the Law advancing, lost his nerve, and bolted. Tricksey was never the most intelligent of men.

Saturday afternoon at four o'clock, Cawdor-Jones made another announcement. "It appears the bomb warning was just another hoax. It is now safe for everyone to return to the stands."

The crowd streamed back in reverse and made for the Tote. The barmarks returned to their posts and immediately raised hands and voices in a screeching chorus of affronted horror. "Someone's pinched all the takings!"

"The cheek of it. Taken our tips, and all!" In the various Tote buildings, the ticket sellers stood appalled. Most of the huge intake for the biggest race of the meeting had simply vanished.

Angelisa Ludville looked with utter disbelief at her own plundered cash box. White, shaking, she joined the clamour of voices. "The money's gone..."

Cawdor-Jones received report after report with a face of anxious despair. He knew no doors had been locked after the stampede to the exits. He knew no security measures whatever had been taken. The racecourse wasn't equipped to deal with such a situation. The committee would undoubtedly blame him. Might even give him the sack.

At four-thirty he listened with a rounded gratitude to news from the police that a man had been apprehended and was now helping to explain how his binoculars case came to be

crammed to overflowing with used treasury notes, many of them bearing a fresh circular water mark resulting from the use of a wet beer glass as a paperweight.

Monday morning Tricksey Wilcox appeared gloomily before a magistrate and was remanded in custody for seven days. The Great Bandwagon idea hadn't been so hot after all, and this would undoubtedly send him down for more than nine months, this time.

Only one thought brightened his future. The police had tried all weekend to get information out of him, and he had kept his mouth tight shut. Where, they wanted to know, had he hidden the biggest part of the loot?

Tricksey said nothing. There had only been room in the binoculars case for one tenth of the stolen money. Where had he put the bulk?

Tricksey wasn't telling. He would get off more lightly, they said, if he surrendered the rest. Tricksey didn't believe it. He grinned sardonically and shook his head. Tricksey knew from past experiences that he would have a much easier time inside as the owner of a large hidden cache. He'd be respected. Treated with proper awe. He'd have status. Nothing on earth would have persuaded him to spill the beans.

Monday morning Major Kevin Cawdor-Jones took his red face to an emergency meeting of his executive committee and agreed helplessly with Bellamy's sharply reiterated opinion that the racecourse security was a disgrace.

"I warned you", Bellamy repeated for the tenth self-righteous time. "I warned you all. We need more locks. There are some excellent slam-shut devices available for the cash boxes in the Tote. I'm told that all money can be secured in five seconds. I propose that these devices be installed immediately throughout the racecourse."

He glared belligerently round the table. Roskin kept his eyes down and merely pursed his mouth, and Kingdom Hill voted to bolt its doors now that the horse was gone.

Monday evening Angelisa Ludville poured a double gin, switched on the television and put her feet up. Beside her lay a pile of stamped and addressed envelopes, each containing one of the dreaded bills. She sighed contentedly. Never, she thought, would she forget the shock of seeing her empty till. Never would she get over the fright it had given her. Never would she forget the rush of relief when she realized that everyone had been robbed, not just herself. Because she knew perfectly well that it was one of the five-pound windows whose take she had scooped up on the scramble to the door. It would have been plain stupid to have lifted the money from her own place. She couldn't have known there would be another, more ambitious thief. It would have been plain silly to steal from

her own place. There was far in five-pound window. Monday... Cawdor-Jones sat flat thinking about search a Kingdom Sunday the police the no-kand cra but slow, with ing no for a km Cawdor-Jones at all had been to "Tricksey must partner", said morose. "But a dicky broom of Cawdor-Jones, his manorship, at the manor, of days. Cawdor-Jones and rasky one made the most of nity Tricksey Wilcox. Cawdor-Jones had driven my evening with to the Tote.

He leaned over chair and, tony bulging braces:

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High Stakes, by  
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# The Times records of the month

## To make you sweat

## Figaro here and there

### Bridge

### Story time

Bridge anecdotes fall flat unless they are narrated by great writers or are concerned with sensational incidents. *Grand Slam* (The Bodley Head, £2.95) is a collection of 13 stories which are likely to appeal more by their literary merit than by descriptions of bidding and play, because many of them do not contain a deal and are better for their absence. The joint editors have, perhaps, cast their net too wide in their effort to produce a representative anthology, but every tale is worthy of preservation.

Frank Thomas successfully recaptures the style of Conan Doyle in *The Adventure of the Panamanian Girls*; unfortunately, the leads of Sherlock Holmes are too elementary. *Strike of 1926*, reprinted, not for the first time, from *The New Yorker*, is a perfect example of George S. Kaufman's particular brand of humour. He did his best by his satire to eliminate those onlookers whose justification for an uninvited commentary can only be their privilege of standing drinks.

*Bridge at Blakes*, the famous James Bond story from Ian Fleming's *Mostraker*, is beautifully told, although the deal has been current for two centuries. It is a variant of the "Duke of Cumberland" hand which was supposed to have cost the son of George III no less than £20,000 at whist, although it was a card-sharp's vade-mecum long before the duke was trapped.

Two deals composed by "Sonny" Moysa for his series *Jackie Plays the System* dovetail neatly with his narrative. This is not surprising since he was a former editor of *Bridge World* and wrote hundreds of syndicated articles under the names of the Culbertsons in addition to those under his own.

R. P. Foster will be better remembered for his discovery of the "Rule of Eleven" than for his role of a pair of crooks working a transatlantic line, while William Somerset Maugham scarcely earns a place in this book with his *Three Fat Women of Antibes*, who are more interested in weighing in than in playing. Their stalling and stalling are better described than their system of bridge.

To make up for the absence of a bridge hand in Maugham's superb tale I am giving a deal which is worthy of inclusion

Dealer West

♠ A 7 5	♥ A 8 3	♦ A 8 3	♣ 10 8 6 4 2
♠ K 9 8	♥ K 7 6	♦ K 7 6	♣ K 9 8
♠ J 10 9	♥ J 10 9	♦ J 10 9	♣ J 10 9
♠ 6 5 4 3 2	♥ 6 5 4 3 2	♦ 6 5 4 3 2	♣ 6 5 4 3 2

West trumps North trumps East trumps South trumps

West made the conventional lead of the ♠ 3 when the ♠ K was held by the declarer. East played the ♠ 10 and South won with the ♠ K. Declarer next played the ♠ A followed by the ♠ 9. West holding the ♠ 10 in the hope that South's ♠ A was singleton. To West's dismay, declarer now produced the ♠ 7 and ran dummy's six tricks, leaving a pretty three-card ending.

East had kept ♠ 9 5 and South held ♠ 6 7. West, who had discarded his hearts in the belief that his partner had the ♠ J, retained the ♠ A. West had lost the thread of the diamonds and threw his cards in order to keep the ♠ K; so declarer collected all thirteen tricks.

Edward Mayer

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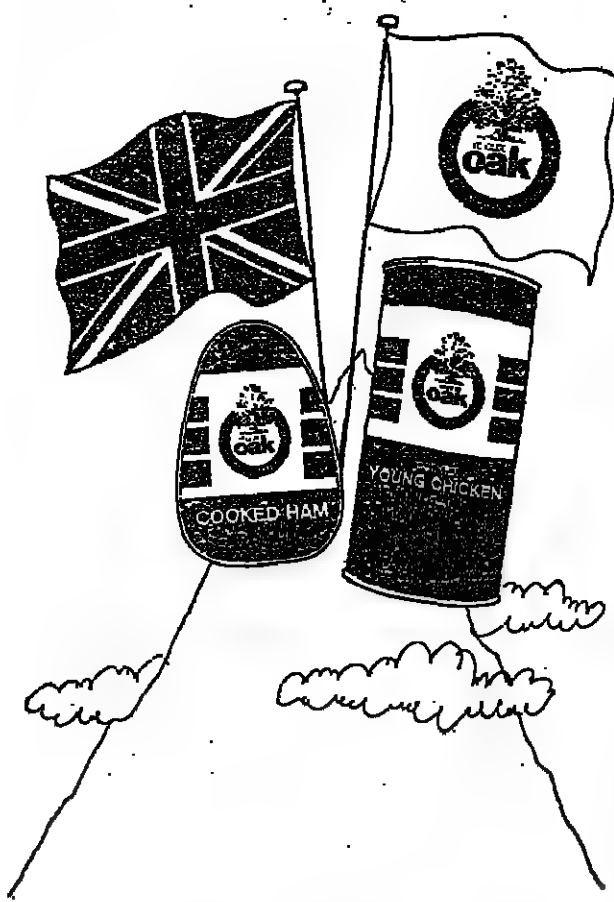












## The taste of success.

Olde Oak hams and chicken were chosen by Chris Bonington and his team to be a part of the supplies on their successful assault on Everest.

We would now like to join in congratulating them on their marvellous achievement.



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BRITISH AND PROUD OF IT

## Standing on the highest point of earth

continued from page 1

Sherpas. I had spent a long time before the expedition working out our logistics, and the fastest time we could possibly climb the mountain.

We had consistently stayed in front of this theoretical path, largely because of the tremendous enthusiasm of the Sherpas who carried more, often heavier, loads than from previous experience I had ever thought possible. We were paying them well, but there was more to it than that. It was primarily the actual spirit and feel of the potential success that pervaded the expedition.

It was on September 20 that Nick Escourt and Tur Braithwaite found the key to the south-west face of Everest, a ramp of steep snow that crept out of the deep-fetched gully that penetrated the rock band on its left-hand end. Although we had obtained every photograph which we possibly could, none had shown what happened inside the gully: this was one of the big gambles. Mick Burke and I carried loads of rope in support of Escourt and Braithwaite that day, and we slowly followed up the ropes they had already fixed, into the deep, shadow-enclosed jaws of the gully. A rock plastered across the walls, formed the first barrier. Tur Braithwaite forced his way up one edge. By the time he had reached the top he had run out of oxygen, but he just kept going. Nick, who had already finished his cylinder, just kept going, climbing up past Tur and then pressing forward.

There was a shout from the shadows above. "There's a way through". And we followed on up. By the time Mick and I had reached them, Nick Braithwaite was already climbing the ramp. The height was close to 27,000 ft. It was probably the hardest climbing ever attempted at that altitude, and he was without oxygen. The overhanging wall above pushed him out of balance. The rocks were plastered in snow and he could get no pions in. Afterwards, he said that because of the altitude it was one of the

hardest climbs he had ever led. In doing so, he had solved the problem of the rock band.

On our return that afternoon, as on the next day, which we used as a rest day, I made my calculations to ensure a smooth summit bid and subsequent ascents or bids. It was an incredibly complex permutation of movement of men, equipment, oxygen and food. I completed it at 25,500 ft, the odd whiff of oxygen to keep me working clearly—and at the end of about 12 hours of work had a plan that worked, with Doug Haston and Doug Scott making the first bid and two groups of four making the second and third.

On September 22, I had what to me as leader was the supreme satisfaction of helping Doug and Doug into Camp 6.

Doug Scott writes:

For Doug and me here were three incredible days of mountaineering on this our third expedition to Everest.

On September 22 we moved up the gully by way of Tur's fixed ropes then out of it right by the way of the ropes left by Nick. We were both amazed at the simplicity of the solution to the rock band and at the change of perspective—a veritable "devil's kitchen" of a gash in the rock face, the open slopes of Everest. There was another 300ft of ground to climb and rope to fix before we were out of the gully system and had found a site for Camp 6.

This was in a narrow arête of snow made possible only by backing out a notch in its profile. Ang Phurba brought up the heavy tent and the Sherpas went down just as Chris, Mike Thompson and Mick Burke arrived with other vital supplies—rope, food and oxygen. Their magnificent carry up to 27,500ft gave Doug and me the wherewithal to continue our upward progress.

They went down. Chris weary from nine days' hard effort above Camp 5. Mike Thompson gave us his best wishes trusting us to make good his unselfish ferry. We

would not let him down or Chris or any of the lads below who had worked hard and fast to put us in this position.

The MacInnes box (a special tent named after its designer Hamish MacInnes, the expedition's deputy leader) took a lot of erecting. Hacking out snow at that height was hard work without oxygen. We had just enough cylinders for climbing and none to waste on static activities around camp. Just before dark we snuggled into our sleeping bags and began brewing mugs of tea and a billy full of sausage and mash.

Before a light Doug left the tent to lay the first of our three 400ft lengths of fixed rope. It was his turn as I had completed the route of the gully the day before.

It was slow going for him in the cold early morning light as the ground became increasingly steep and for 20ft there was even vertical snow—hard work at 27,500ft. My lead ran over easier ground and by sun up we had 800ft fixed. Doug continued diagonally upwards across more difficult rock shale bands, dipping the wrong way and uncomfortably loose.

We also ran out our two 150ft lengths of climbing rope and retreated back to camp with all the rope we had fixed to within halfway to the gully leading up to the summit.

We lay in our feathers that night listening to the wind buffeting the top pyramid of Everest and rocking our little square of canvas. No real doubts but nagging little thoughts of how vulnerable we were, how much we were at the mercy of the weather, how lucky we should be if our ascent even took place; and then we were off into double boots, crampons, overalls and harness, downing a cup of tea and away along the ropes with jumars sliding on the icy sheets. It took only a quarter of the time to reach our high point of the day before, so much for fixed ropes—then on to the virgin slopes. Rope length after rope length until Doug's lead took us to the foot of the final couloir.

Doug Haston writes:

Crossing into it we realized that we were in for a hard time—the snow was soft and deep and it looked much longer than we had expected. Just before the rock step my oxygen fiddling to fix took an hour's fiddling to fix.

Doug led on to the step and climbing carefully and well was up it in one and a half hours. Here we left a fixed rope. The next few hours were spent in a type of wading up steep snow (up to 60°). The leader first of all had to go to the foot of the step, pack it down until it was reasonably consolidated, then try to stand up, usually sinking up to his knees. Near the South Summit a piece of rock provided some relief. About 3 pm we pulled over the cornice and took shelter in Tibet.

Doug Scott writes:

We considered bivouacking there was a lot to recommend it: loose unconsolidated snow that might later firm up with the rising wind and the lateness of the hour, but then there was the feeling of getting the job done there and then while we had oxygen and strength. We decided to have a cup of hot water (victuals were low) and have a go at the ridge. Doug wriggled into his bivouac sack while I tried to scoop out a snow hole to escape the spindrift. I had not gone more than a few feet when Doug emerged with the hot water. Thus fortified we set off along the ridge.

Doug Haston writes:

We knew that the way to the summit was not technically difficult but also wondered about the time factor and whether the snow conditions would be similar to those encountered on the ascent.

A bivouac was looking more and more probable. We deliberated, waiting till the sun went off the ridge then making an attempt, but finally decided to push on for the top in the present conditions.

At 4 pm we left the South Summit and after a rope length on the ridge were relieved to find that though not ideal the snow conditions did improve. The Hil-

lary Step was deeply masked in powder snow and I shovelled my way up it without too much trouble. There was some windslab avalanche danger above but by treading carefully close to the cornice I avoided it. Soon after it was moving together in beautiful sunset colours to the top.

This was marked by a curious metal structure with strips of red flag attached which can only be evidence at last of a long doubted Chinese ascent of the old British route from the North Col. The view was as much and more as any climber could expect who has struggled to the top of Everest—purples, reds, blacks with the twilight shadow of our mountain projected on to the plains of Tibet. Down we had to go to the not-so-injuring thought of a bivouac.

Soon retracing our steps, we were back at the South Summit, leaving a rope in place at the Hillary Step—thinking of a second ascent and more.

While I boiled some more water, Doug started on a snow cave. Soon we were both working on it.

Doug Scott writes: After another cup of hot water we both set to work on the hole. I hacked away at the roof with the ice pick. Doug scooped out the loose snow with his gloved hands. At 8 o'clock, just as the remaining oxygen failed we had our snow cave. We snuggled into the hole at 28,700ft—Doug in his down suit and duvet boots. For me a nylon fibre pile suit and nylon oversuit and frozen boots. There was to be no sleep that night. With the elation of Everest to sustain us for a while we began the long ritual of rubbing and pounding our feet into a lukewarmness.

As dawn broke we continued the effort through that long night until the dawn, a red glow giving out as much heat as an electric fire a million miles away. The cold by this time had worsened the way into our limbs and backs and was not far from the body core. Hypothermia approaching, we put on our frozen boots, gaiters and crampons and plunged down the wind-blown trail to Camp 6.

Congratulations to  
Chris Bonington and the  
other members of the  
British Everest Expedition  
1975 who reached the  
summit on September 24th—  
and took Mr Ube with them.

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## A turning-point achieved with the help of management skills

by John Hunt

So Chris Bonington and his men have made it at last and in spite of the tragedy of one climber's death, notwithstanding the expense of the expedition and all the attendant publicity for the

venture, no one can gainsay the magnitude of the achievement or the brilliance of its doing. The climbing of Everest's south-west face, after five previous attempts by climbers from many nations, was a tremendous achievement both in technological and human terms.

In any evaluation of these two factors, the latter must have pride of place; the British party has demonstrated the power of teamwork and the quality of management skills by its leader without which, in the final analysis, the greatest natural obstacles cannot be overcome. In spite of, or even because of, the stress-filled and difficult time we live in, I see no case for cavilling at the cost of illuminating this fact. The challenge of that great western precipice was insuperable and it is good that our own country should have combined so splendidly to overcome it. It has given pride and pleasure to countless people.

I believe that this climb may be seen in history not only as a triumph in mountaineering, but also as a turning-point in climbing among the biggest mountains. It is worth looking back briefly in order to get the perspective against which to contemplate this achievement. Since after the First World War produced 11 main attempts to prove that Everest could be climbed, of which all but two expeditions were British-sponsored, and of which our success in 1953 was the culmination of all those efforts.

If we add the well-merited second and third ascents by a Swiss expedition, three years later which completed that country's own contribution to the story, we can see 1956 as the end of the long period of pioneering.

After that, changes in direction, or motivation, can be discerned. True, the tempo was growing apace to claim high status by the ensuing ascents along our 1953 route up the south-west ridge, which climbers from seven nations have followed in the course of nine expeditions. But others were looking for new ways to the top and as on the other summit, among the world's highest mountains, they were introducing the same golden age in the Himalayas as their forebears had done in lower ranges, including our western Alps.

In 1960 we heard of a Chinese claim to have reached the top by the north-east ridge, which had defeated all the previous British expeditions at a height of about 28,000 ft, where Mallory and Irvine may have perished. Three years later the Americans climbed the peak by using part of the mountain's west ridge: as a necessary condition of returning safely, they made a "double first" by descending along our 1953 route, thus completing a traverse of Everest.

There remained only one big difficulty to be overcome for climbers from the "free world" and no time was lost in tackling the 7,000ft precipice which lies between the west and south-

east ridges. It was besieged with great determination and fortitude, but in the period before the monsoon and in the brief spell which may be granted by the elements before the winter winds make life unsupportable at high altitudes.

Three attempts were made by Japanese climbers and apart from Chris Bonington's earlier efforts in the autumn of 1972, British as well as Japanese climbers were part of an international expedition in 1971; three Britons again took part with a European team in 1972. All these men, to say nothing of the intrepid women, were there in the success of which we British are now rightly proud.

And before looking beyond 1975 it is only right to add, against the expression of doubts about their climb in 1960, delighted acknowledgement of the Chinese ascent via the north-east ridge last spring, of which they left the irrefutable evidence of a flag pole beside which our own heroes were recently photographed.

There is equal call for rejoicing at the fact that their summit party included a woman, and that one member of a Japanese woman's expedition had also stood there only a few days previously. What mighty boost for "women's lib".

What of the future? Twenty-two years ago a leading French climber said of our first ascent that we had "conquered" mountaineering. Lucien Duval meant that by removing that compelling lure to get there first, climbers would look elsewhere for their personal conquests, attended by less glamour and less risk.

History has proved him wrong, but I was partly with that sentiment at the time and I hope that his words may at last be true in as far as they affect the publicity and entertainment value attached to this highest mountain. With all its great ridges climbed and now a way forced up one of the three faces of the pyramid, there remain only two main possibilities for bringing off a première on Everest: the North (or Rongbuk) face and East (or Kangshung) face.

Both are in Tibet and to

attempt them would require permission from the Chinese, which they might or might not be willing to grant; or to share these exploits with climbers from other lands. Each in its very different way presents a most awesome challenge; so much so that I am inclined to doubt whether the prospective bombardment of stones down the rocky ribs and snow-filled gullies of the northern slope, and the avalanches which must sweep down more sheltered and snow-covered eastern face, could justify the high risks of establishing and maintaining lengthy communications from camp to camp.

More climbers will continue to go up Everest by the now standard route of the first ascent: it is now "booked" by expeditions until about 1980. The inner personal urge to stand on the top of the world will become more, rather than less, compelling to more climbers as time passes. More than 40 people have achieved this ambition, but this is only a beginning. And novelty may still be sought by some.

There may be a trend towards small groups, more lightly equipped and less costly to organize; and for a reason diminishing reliance on oxygen, in which the Chinese have given us a lead, may assist in the desired direction. Other climbers may be intent on "improving" routes already climbed: an obvious challenge is that of forcing a directissima to straighten out Bonington's route. There remain possibilities for new traverses, provided that the Chinese Government allows incur-

sions on to the north side of Everest; this was one of our hopes after 1953. All this is a predictable pattern, as happened in the western Alps when the era of pioneering was replaced by the sport of mountaineering. But the analogy should not be pushed too far, for as some western mountaineers of great skill have found to their cost, Everest deals ruthlessly with those who presume to treat its defences as if they were those on lesser mountains. I trust that this truth will be heeded as the new waves of daring and brilliant young climbers set forth to add to their achievements in the Himalayas.

The risks they run are not only to themselves, for that is their business and it is what mountaineering is partly about; but there is also the danger to which foreign climbers may expose the Sherpas, who have represented the common human denominator of nearly all the expeditions in the central and eastern Himalayas since 1921.

The spotlight of publicity may soon shift from the arena of the Khumbu glacier as the novelty of these great deeds on Everest wears off. But it could be switched to a back again, and for a reason at least to be desired: avoidable tragedies which may involve those splendid, tough, loyal men who shoulder the climbers' loads and help them to reach the heights.

Lord Hunt is chairman of the 1975 expedition management committee and was leader of the 1953 Everest expedition.

## From the depths of the ocean to the top of Everest.

John West congratulate Chris Bonington and his team on their conquest of Mount Everest. We are pleased that they enjoyed the delicious selection of

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## Bullet-proof boxes for the snow

by Michael Frenchman

There seems little doubt between the British and Everest. But by a British manufacturer, the MacIntoshes, to produce a light, bullet-proof material which came in as a protective cover. The high-altitude tents on expedition. These were designed by Hansh, deputy leader of the expedition, and Dave, who was responsible for the equipment. The tents (they are called by the climbers) were built to withstand particularly harsh conditions in the Himalayan environment. Apart from gales and snowstorms, the greatest threat is from rock and ice falls.

There were three kinds of tents: the Superbox for base camps which could accommodate 10 people; the MacIntoshes box for face camps; and a super lightweight summit or face box for the last stages of the climb. All consisted of aluminium tube frames which could be sprung together. These were covered with polyester cotton and to protect them from the rock falls there was an additional covering of the bullet-proof material.

Originally, MacIntosh had designed a titanium wire mesh to cover the boxes but this had proved very expensive and not very practical. The MacIntoshes boxes also had integral floors of closed cell foam in a balsa wood sandwich.

This platform was developed by the British Aircraft Corporation for use in Con-

A vital part of the equipment was the breathing system apparatus. If someone was taken from sea level and immediately brought up the mountain to 27,000ft, he would become unconscious within three minutes because of the lowering of the air pressure. To assist climbers to function, various oxygen systems have been developed. That used by the expedition was an American aviation system which proved in practice to be a little too delicate for the conditions, according to members of the expedition.

One technical achievement which was a success was the design of a new type of lightweight oxygen cylinder which proved to be extremely functional. Among the equipment carried by the climbers were 60 aluminium ladders in six sections which could be linked together and used for crossing crevasses and other bridging purposes.

All the equipment and food was driven to the base camp in two large Ford lorries in a record time. Some of the equipment has been left behind and the rest brought back to London. The 1976 British Army expedition to Everest is hoping to use some of the gear.



Not quite like home: the clutter of tents that comprised Camp 4.

Once the expedition got on to a businesslike footing, the support came from some 200 suppliers of equipment after the first announcement of the expedition in October, 1974. Momentum gradually built up after this and talks and negotiations continued as enthusiasm increased. Sponsorship of this kind was a novel venture as a large clearing bank had never been involved in this kind of exercise. From the start the bank decided that it was not a light matter to be treated

with brush visual images and stylized "house" uniforms for the climbers. Everest did not respond to pleasing initial letters and colourful packaging.

However, the bank's skill in marketing was able to pay dividends, not only to the expedition but to its shareholders as well in the knowledge that worldwide publicity had been obtained and also that the bank's contribution to the expedition had gone a long way to establishing British climbing prestige.

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Strapping Tape, called CORDYSTAP, was the one used by the British Everest expedition for securing the packs of supplies.  
are proud to have made some small contribution to the magnificent effort of the Bonington and his team.

## Clinical view of a sport

by Ronald Faux

In the terse English of some future guidebook the latest achievement on Everest might one day be summed up thus: "Everest, south-west face. High technical difficulty on ice and rock. A classic expedition. Effects of altitude and extreme exposure may render the route extremely hard."

Everest and all its forbidding faces may indeed one day be reduced to such cold print. Who knows what technical developments distant generations of Himalayan mountaineers may enjoy: ropes no thicker than fishing line; pills which pack a month's intensive energy into a matchbox; oxygen sets no larger than a nasal inhaler and lightweight clothing which automatically gives a "stable body environment". What of the miniature laser step-cutter, the indestructible, thermally insulated unit which folds into a small umbrella yet provides total protection or the snap-link the size of a safety pin? Is there a place for the instant leader available on micro-video machinery programmed to handle any emergency or logistic trouble?

Fanciful, perhaps, but observe the modern climber wreathed in multi-coloured ropes, jangling with hooks, pegs and hammers. Compare him with the sweet-coated salivary 30 years ago. Climbers now often seem pragmatic. They have a clinical way of assessing their sport; and reducing any route to a series of moves of graded difficulty. It is an attitude which may help and advise those who follow which rather dampens the romanticism of observers who see climbing in terms of challenge, hardship, anguish and toil. But as any addict of mountaineering books pined daily on the edge of his comfortable armchair will tell you, climbers are frequently hard-headed and unromantic souls. They usually become less concerned with aesthetic matters and more anxious about the treatment of painful attacks of piles, diarrhoea, cramp or frostbite.

Reaching the summit is invariably a victory of logistics and attention over nature at its most raw. "At that kind of height the problems, which may be bad enough lower down, kind of multiply. You tire out more easily and they say your brain actually starts to shrink." Don Whitlans, of Lancashire, said. Added to the other discomforts which afflict Himalayan mountaineers, a shrinking brain might be considered

something of a last straw. Small wonder that most climbers prefer expeditions to lower mountains which are technically more difficult but can be attempted with smaller teams, without an army of porters and for a fraction of the cost.

But the route on the south-west face marked a logical summit to recent climbing development. At first the most dramatic or aesthetic mountains were climbed in the Alps by the simplest ways and then by their more difficult faces of ridges. Every popular peak now has a cobweb of routes all plotted, graded and carefully described in guidebooks. Technique improved and the scale of ingenuity defeated such places as the Eiger north face direct route. The advanced approach was then applied to the Himalayas.

The Annapurna south face expedition, also led by Chris Bonington, was a classic example of technical climbing at the highest level and the Everest south-west face was the next natural target. With present-day technology the mountain still has decided the upper hand.

If the hardest technical moves on Everest or Annapurna were transferred to a cliff in North Wales they would be graded far from difficult. A big Himalayan expedition is a pyramid of self-denial with the overwhelming majority of climbers ferrying loads and supporting the few fortunate men who reach the top. The dangers throughout are great and usually come from causes over which the climbers have little control.

Personality differences on a large expedition may also place great strains on the party as the international attempt on Everest demonstrated. Before it was abandoned Whillans and Dougal Haston were poised high on the south-west face without food, equipment and little support and with the strong sensation that most of the team had gone home in a huff. Leading such an attempt and organizing the climbers is a kind of vertically integrated crowd control.

The following is a list of the rations carried by the climbers for the face assault. The rations, known as a four-man day pack, provide enough food for one man for four days.

Sugar (cube)	1 box	Lightweight sweaters	2
Milk substitute	6 sachets	Woolen shirts	1
Instant coffee	6 sachets	Balaclavas and hats	4
Tea	12 bags	Stockings	4
Fruit drink (lemon)	1 packet	Double boots	1
Stock cubes	4 cubes	Walking boots/shoes	1
Soup (mushroom)	4 cubes	Sheepskin boots	1
Mint cake	2x3oz bars	Zip gaiters	1
Chocolate (roasted almond)	4x2oz bars	Overboots	1
Nougat	4x2oz packets	Goggles	4
Candle	1	Sunglasses	2
Matches	2 boxes	Stuff bags	3
Tissues	1 box	Pack frames	1
Vitamin tablets	1 strip (4 tablets)	Pack sacks	1
Salt	2 drums	Crampons and straps	1
Margarine	2x1oz tubes	Climbing harness and two short holsters	1
Tin opener	1	Headlamps	1
Instant porridge	8oz bag	Wristwatches	1
Irish stew	2x16oz tins	Lighters	2
Dehydrated potato	2x5oz packets	Pocket knives	1
Dried peas	2oz packet	Housewife	1
High-fat biscuits	2x3oz packets	Umbrellas	1
Christmas pudding	16oz packet	Underwear—disposable vest and pants	2
Cream	4oz tin	Whistles	1
Chocolate digestive biscuits	8oz packet	Crash helmets	1
Honey	2x1oz pots	Hand torches	2
		Day sacks	1
		Mattresses	1

Climbers' personal equipment			
One-piece windsuit	1	Lightweight sweaters	2
Two-piece proofed nylon oversuit	1	Woolen shirts	1
One-piece downsuit	1	Balaclavas and hats	4
Double sleeping bag	1	Stockings	4
Down socks	1	Double boots	1
Two-piece nylon pile suits	1	Walking boots/shoes	1
Padded jackets and over-trousers	1	Sheepskin boots	1
Mitts/overmitts	2	Zip gaiters	1
Inner gloves	2	Overboots	1
Breeches/braces	2	Goggles	4
Undersuits	1	Sunglasses	2
Woolen undersuits and two-piece silk suits	1	Stuff bags	3
Jeans	1	Pack frames	1
Heavyweight sweaters	1	Pack sacks	1
Mediumweight sweaters	1	Crampons and straps	1
		Climbing harness and two short holsters	1
		Headlamps	1
		Wristwatches	1
		Lighters	2
		Pocket knives	1
		Housewife	1
		Umbrellas	1
		Underwear—disposable vest and pants	2
		Whistles	1
		Crash helmets	1
		Hand torches	2
		Day sacks	1
		Mattresses	1

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## Quest for perfect oxygen system

by Dr A. J. F. Macmillan

Reduction in the pressure of oxygen in the atmosphere, with increasing altitude, is perhaps the most serious medical hazard encountered by mountaineers. At 18,000 ft where the pressure of oxygen is only half that present at ground level an unacclimatised man would be seriously incapacitated, and at 25,000 ft he would lose consciousness in two to three minutes.

Acclimatisation reduces this impairment and fortunately the traditional long march in to Mount Everest from Katmandu, contains the essential ingredients for acclimatisation—gradual exposure to increasing altitude over several weeks, combined with strenuous exercise.

Successful acclimatisation to about 18,000 ft can be achieved, but ascent above this altitude even by a well adapted man is accompanied by increasing impairment of mental and physical performance so that, without oxygen, climbing above 25,000 ft is almost impossible. Furthermore, occasionally the much more serious conditions associated with accumulation of fluid in the lungs, known as mountain sickness, may develop.

However, the effects of lack of oxygen about which mountaineers most frequently complain are disturbance of sleep, irritability and the exhaustion produced by only light exercise. All

of these effects can be significantly reduced by the addition of oxygen to the air breathed by the climber.

Since oxygen was first used on Everest by the British expedition of 1922, many systems for supplying supplemental oxygen have been devised but only a few have been satisfactory. An ideal system would supply an increasing concentration of oxygen as the climber ascends and also when he increases his physical activity. But the quantity of oxygen delivered to a climber must be carefully controlled so that neither too little nor too much is supplied.

Insufficient oxygen delivered from an inefficient system is hazardous and excessive oxygen is not only wasteful of a commodity, laboriously carried up the mountain, but if the amount in the climber's lungs exceeds that which is present when breathing air at 18,000 ft then the hard-won advantages of acclimatisation may be destroyed.

To meet the oxygen requirements of mountaineers, early systems delivered a constant flow of oxygen to the climber's mask. This flow could be varied by the user, but only by limited and precise amounts.

Recently a much more satisfactory method of delivering oxygen has been developed from equipment originally designed for use by aircrew. The key component of this equipment is a small valve which opens and allows

oxygen to flow only when the user breathes in. The deeper the breath the greater the amount of oxygen delivered.

Through a channel, to the exterior of the valve, outside air is drawn in when oxygen is flowing, mixed with the oxygen, and the mixture delivered to the face mask of the user. The amount of air which is drawn in and mixed with the oxygen depends on the diameter of the communicating channel. Thus its size must be varied as altitude increases. This is achieved either manually, by inserting different preset orifices, or automatically, by the expansion of a small aneroid capsule inside the channel.

The properties of a satisfactory oxygen system for use by mountaineers do not stop however at its ability to deliver the correct concentrations of oxygen according to altitude and physical activity. It must be capable of operating under extremely cold conditions, be robust, lightweight and interfere with climbing as little as possible. One of the criticisms of Chris Bonington's climbers was that part of their oxygen equipment—such as the demand valve—was too delicate.

Considerable improvement in mountaineering oxygen equipment can still be achieved and, as the efficiency and reliability of the equipment improves, so the hazards of oxygen lack at altitude will be reduced.

## Sir George quelled men and malady

by Patrick O'Leary

Learned scorn descended on the Chinese when they announced that they had found the height of Everest to be 29,028 ft. Westerners commonly use the figure 29,028, but experts say it is impossible to be exact within a few feet. There is even a theory that the mountain top may be moving upwards imperceptibly.

Consequently there is scepticism about the description of the first measurement. The story goes that one day in 1852 a member of the India Trigonometrical Survey burst into the office of Sir Andrew Waugh, the Surveyor-General, and cried: "Sir, we have found the greatest mountain in the world. It is 29,002 ft high."

It is suspected that the surveyors thought the mountain was about 29,000 ft and stuck on two more to make the reading look more scientific. However, Sir Andrew retorted that the mountain, hitherto known as Peak XV, was the greatest; he modestly named it after his predecessor as Surveyor-General, Sir George Everest, who had carried out much of the painstaking fieldwork which led to the discovery.

When the great survey of India began one of the first findings was that previously there had been an error of 40 miles in measuring the breadth of the peninsula. So Sir George, although a stickler for accuracy, might not have worried over a few feet variation in the dimensions of his namesake.

Born in Wales in 1790, he showed early academic brilliance and sailed out in the service of the East India Company in 1806. He joined the Bengal artillery.

A few years later he went to Java, then briefly occupied by the British, to make a survey of the island for the Governor. Sir Stamford Raffles. In 1818 his surveying duties in India began.

His work was summed up by the Asiatic Society of Bengal: "Colonel Everest reduced the whole system of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India to order, and established the fixed bases on which the geography of India now rests."

It was not an easy task.



Sir George Everest—never trod peak.

At one time he had to quell a mutiny among his Indian workers, and sudden floods threatened his instruments and provisions.

The Royal Society, of which he became a Fellow, said his search for favourable observing stations meant "journeys through vast and magnificent forest where, more to be dreaded than tiger or hyena, lurked the deadly typhus which prostrated him and his whole following".

Evidently Sir George was the type of man who could quell typhus as well as mutiny, for the society's

tribute continued: "For months he was so weak that he had to be supported by two men while making his observations at the great theodolite, and could not reach out his hand to the screw of the vertical circle without assistance. The chief was so indefatigable that his contemporaries spoke of him as Everest."

Nepal and Tibet were closed to Europeans at that time, and Sir George and his colleagues had to make all their measurements from India. Although he would have liked to carry the survey beyond the Himalayas until it struck Russian territory, he never set foot on the Peak XV which was to make him famous. He retired to England and died in London in 1866.

While the exact height of Everest probably did not worry the latest expedition slogging up to the summit, it might have been a matter of life or death to the first men known to have peered over the top. These were members of the British expedition who flew over in 1933.

In the event two aircraft flew over Everest, one piloted by the Marquess of Clydesdale. There are differing estimates of the amount of clearance, one putting it as low as 100 ft.

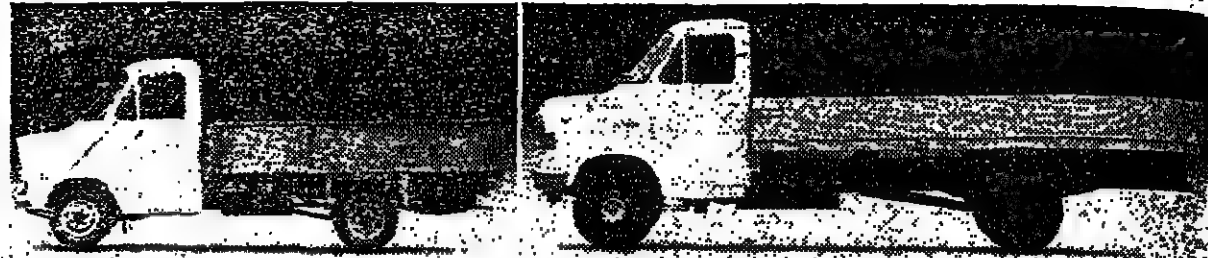
### Previous expeditions

At least 10 earlier Everest expeditions have reported putting climbers on the summit:

May 29, 1953	two members of a British team, Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander, and Sherpa Tensing
May 1956	two teams from a Swiss expedition
May 1960	three men from a Chinese expedition
May 1963	six Americans
May 1965	three two-man teams from an Indian expedition
May 1970	three Japanese and a Sherpa
May 1973	five Italians and three Nepalese
October 1973	two Japanese, the first successful climb in a post-monsoon period
May 1975	Japanese woman with a Sherpa guide
May 1975	nine Chinese, including a woman

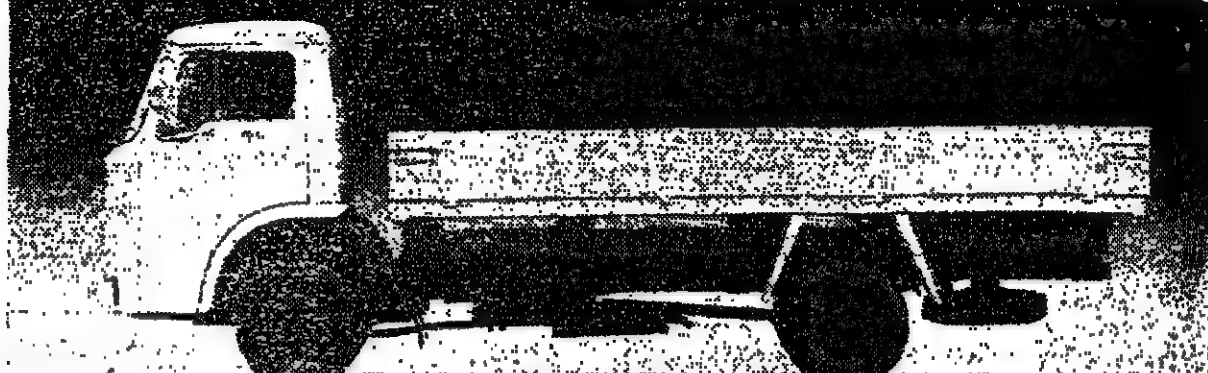
Mountaineers continue to argue about whether George Mallory and Andrew Irvine were the first men to scale Everest. They were last seen climbing strongly less than 800 ft from the summit in 1924, but they never returned, and it has not been established whether they died on the way up or down.

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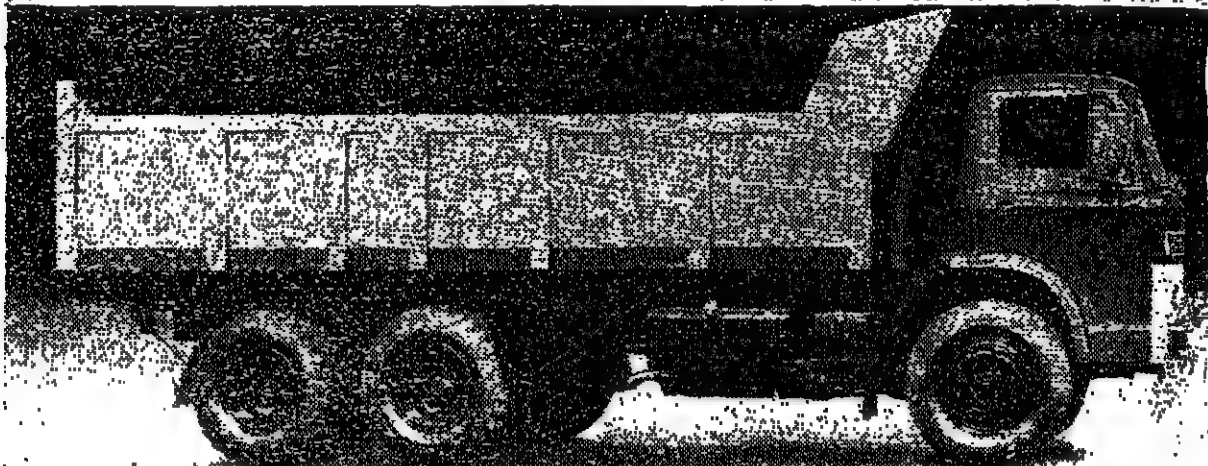


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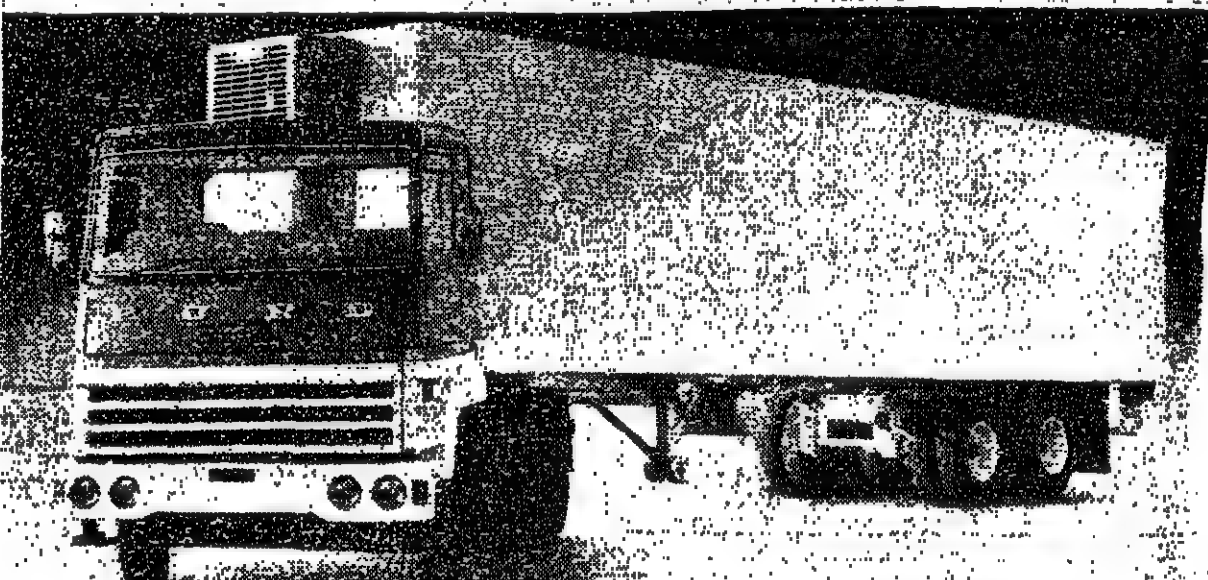
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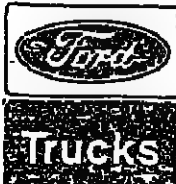
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Chequers meeting on devolution is far more important and far more difficult for the Government than has been generally realised. The Government are committed to introducing legislation providing partial rule for Scotland and Wales. The specific statement of the Government's October 1974 election manifesto was "The next Government will create elected assemblies for Scotland and Wales. From this, explicit commitment can be seen. The Government have promised in their last election manifesto that they will "set up a Scottish assembly" though they did not make a commitment in respect of Wales, nor did they in the Scottish assembly.

## Difficult

The Minister responsible for introducing the White Paper on the legislation on the establishment of a Scottish Assembly is Mr. Stuart, the President of the Council. He has found it very difficult to reach agreement inside the Labour Party. There is a growing resistance among Labour members of Parliament to carry out the full policy of devolution. Until we know what the details of the policy are, it is not possible to estimate whether or not there will be a majority for it in the present House of Commons. The major institutional development which a Labour Party attempted during Mr. Wilson's first government, Mr. Crossman's proposed form of the House of Lords, in fact fell in the House of Commons.

The difficulties now are of a different kind. There is the difficulty of deciding what form the assemblies should take. There is the difficulty of deciding what links are to be between the assemblies and the United Kingdom Parliament in Westminster. There is also the difficulty of deciding what effect, if any, the decision of the assembly should have on representation at Westminster. Because of the size of the electorate of Northern Ireland and was not fully represented in Westminster according to its numbers. Scotland no longer has a representative in Westminster. And Wales are to have assemblies, ought there to be an adjustment to their membership in the House of Commons? Or ought there to be an English assembly as well?

These questions all need looking at, but the political difficulty of which the Government are well aware, is essentially that the future of Scotland, the Government rightly want to keep a United Kingdom together. They may or may not be pursuing, or be going to pursue, the means to achieve that end. A large majority of people in England and still substantial minorities in Wales and Scotland are in favour of the United Kingdom remaining a single entity. The Scottish Nationalists want to break up the United Kingdom or at least to remove

Scotland from it. If devolution is badly handled then the Scottish Nationalists may be able to achieve their objectives even though that is not what the majority of people in Scotland would want.

An immediate danger would arise if the Government were unable to honour their election pledge. Whatever one may think about an elected Scottish assembly, any attempt now to go back on the specific pledge in the Labour Party manifesto would have a disastrous effect in Scotland. It would give the Scottish Nationalists the weapon of being able to say that you cannot trust a British government to honour its commitments. Not to proceed with creating an elected assembly would therefore probably be fatal to the unity of the United Kingdom.

We come next however to the question of the probable political composition of the assembly. The Kilbrandon Committee reported in favour of a form of proportional representation in the Scottish assembly, they recommended that the specific form should be the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies as adopted in Mr. Whitelaw's Northern Ireland assembly. (In Northern Ireland the assembly failed, but the system of election did provide fair representation.) The Government are very anxious to avoid proportional representation for the Scottish assembly; the Labour Party are opposed to proportional representation for the Westminster parliament. They know that proportional representation for elected assemblies in Scotland and Wales—and you can hardly have different electoral systems for the two countries—would greatly strengthen the case for proportional representation in the United Kingdom.

## Two advantages

Unfortunately the more closely one looks at the figures of the last two elections in Scotland, the more likely it seems that the United Kingdom system of elections would operate in favour of the Scottish Nationalists. If one takes the results in Scotland in the General Election of October 1974, one finds that then it was the Labour Party which was substantially over-represented. The Labour Party won 58 per cent of the seats with 36.5 per cent of the votes. The Conservatives won 22.5 per cent of the seats with 27 per cent of the votes. The Liberals won 4 per cent of the seats with 8.3 per cent of the votes and the Scottish Nationalists won 15.5 per cent of the seats with 30.4 per cent of the votes. In other words the Labour Party got nearly four times as many Scottish seats as the Scottish Nationalists with only 36.5 per cent as against 30.4 per cent of the vote. A comparatively small swing could go a long way to reverse the advantage and turn the injustice to the SNP into an injustice to Labour.

In trying to achieve such a swing the Scottish Nationalists would have two advantages: their propaganda would have forced the creation of the assembly and assembly elections

would not coincide with General Elections in Britain. The assembly elections would be like by-elections or local government elections in which government parties normally do badly. The Scottish Nationalist Party is now waging a campaign for membership in the Strathclyde area which is the stronghold of the Labour Party; in many of these seats the Labour Party in the constituencies has almost completely collapsed. The probability is that in an assembly election the SNP would be able to do substantially better than they were able to do in the October election last year. The trend is still probably favourable to the SNP—between the two elections in 1974, when the Liberal vote in the United Kingdom fell back substantially, the Scottish Nationalist vote in Scotland increased by nearly one third.

## Madness

Such forecasts are of course unreliable, but in creating a new elected assembly and deciding its electoral system it is necessary to look at the probable outcome. On what we know at present the likely result in votes in the first assembly election would be SNP first; Labour second; Conservatives third; Liberals fourth. The likely result in seats, given the existing United Kingdom system of elections, would be SNP far ahead, Labour trailing, Conservatives and Liberals badly under-represented. The SNP could easily win an overall majority, and that would probably be the end of the United Kingdom.

If on the other hand the Government were to choose a proportional system in Scotland, then at least the Scottish Nationalists would have to win an outright majority of Scottish votes before they could claim the right as a majority party to take Scotland out of the United Kingdom. It would be madness to allow the United Kingdom to break up as a result of an assembly election in which 62 per cent voted to stay in, 38 per cent voted to go out, and our electoral system gave the 38 per cent more than half the seats in the assembly.

It may be that the best solution in the end will be to have a United Kingdom federation with a federal parliament and separate state assemblies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. That certainly cannot be ruled out at this stage. It is not very attractive to the Labour Party who might be left with an assembly majority only in Wales. Yet the breakup of the United Kingdom would involve the loss of great economic and political advantages to all four nations. It is not only a matter of oil, though the separation of oil could be critical to the British economy. We are dealing with a union of nations which is 270 years old, and we are determining questions which will still be important in 270 years time, long after the oil is gone. As in Northern Ireland, so in Scotland and Wales, only the clearly expressed wish of the majority would justify the historic divorce; of such a majority will there be as yet no evidence.

## Spiritual dilemma revealed by Archbishop's call

From Upasaka Aranda

Sir, As a practising English Buddhist I read the Archbishop of Canterbury's address to the nation, together with the report from Clifford Longley (The Times October 20) on the survey by the British Council of Churches, with particular interest, and I feel that your readers would be interested to hear the Buddhist attitude to the problems outlined by the Archbishop and the BBC. Common to both, it seems, is the issue of faith.

It is very easy for eminent Church leaders to tell the people of Britain to look to their morals, and to fall back on past solutions such as the re-establishment of family and traditional values. But the problems of social harmony and individual happiness must be considered and treated on a much more fundamental level.

If a man lacks the necessary faith for Christian salvation what is he actually supposed to do about it? If his home life is in ruins, his job insecure, his future prospects bleak, and his sense of purpose in life nonexistent, what good can such well-intentioned homilies possibly do? It is surely good that the contemporary Church of Christ should concern itself with these urgent problems, but I do not think, however much faith in the efficacy of his teachings the Archbishop has, the majority of citizens need something more than good advice and a fatherly telling off: they need a method and an example which can be seen to work here and now, in their own lives.

Surely we create our own salvation from ignorance and selfish behaviour by progressively developing their opposites: understanding and selflessness, by the means of meditation and altruistic actions. Buddhism teaches that the mind and heart are affected by everything that we do, hence the great emphasis on practical action in the Buddhist's original teaching.

In this country today there are many people of practicing Buddhist faith whose lives testify to the effectiveness of the methods described in great detail more than 2,500 years ago. The principles which these methods embody are applicable to all epochs and all kinds of society, because they have their roots in the most fundamental of human experiences.

I believe that the Christian churches can only remain relevant to the problems that individual people are facing every day in this country if they recognize the two-fold need for practical and personal guidance and a tangible example of the way to overcome our inner vision falls, and endeavour to serve this need by appropriate means. Certainly the economic and social crises beleaguering our country at present have their roots in a widely felt spiritual dilemma, but I believe that without question there is a way out—far from rejecting traditional answers, which, increasingly, fail to come to terms with the present situation, but rather by pointing out the way to a new, more meaningful, and more joyful life.

I have seen how the separation of oil could be critical to the British economy. We are dealing with a union of nations which is 270 years old, and we are determining questions which will still be important in 270 years time, long after the oil is gone. As in Northern Ireland, so in Scotland and Wales, only the clearly expressed wish of the majority would justify the historic divorce; of such a majority will there be as yet no evidence.

From Mrs. Joseph McCulloch  
Sir, Miss Lynda Reid Banks, in her letter today (October 22), says that anyone who replies in the negative to the question "Would you live better than you do, if you could?" is either a saint or a liar. And she clearly intends to refer to mean people who are more selfish than saintly. But there are many, I believe, in this country, probably not saints, but not liars either, whose answer to the question would be "no". Moreover, I think she underestimates the common sense of the "little shop-girls" in saying they would like to live as pop-stars, who, as anyone can see with half an eye, have a sad time of it—though

mercifully (for their sakes) not for too long.

As for "every humble clergyman wanting to live 'like a bishop'—perhaps the thought! Most humble clergymen of my acquaintance have no such desire. And indeed, of the few bishops I have known, most, I believe, would rather live as humble clergymen; some, in fact, do. Perhaps Miss Reid Banks does not know many bishops.

"The tendency of mankind," she says, "is to lift itself up." Agreed. But what does she mean by "up"? Humility in his despair, cried "I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have had dreams."

The question is: does the "lifting-up" process mean the enlarging of the nutshell or the purifying of the king of infinite space?

Yours faithfully,  
SEITTY MCCULLOCH,  
The Rectory, Lodington,  
St. Marylebone,  
Cheshire, EC2,  
October 22.

From Mr. P. A. Stephenson  
Sir, The obsessive quest to present ourselves as a simple, unadorned, and to be understood by the human organism to breaking point. I would ask intelligent people to consider the following quotation from Hegel with particular reference to the fact that the majority of our people today no longer subscribe to any religion:

"The Catholic confession, although sharing the Christian name with the Protestant, does not concede to the State an inherent justice, and therefore it is a condition which in the Protestant principle is fundamental."

The State has not only acquired a monopoly of "Justice and Morality" to an extent never before contemplated, but is mechanizing it. Better service may be rendered by the Archbishop to emulate Becket.

Yours sincerely,  
P. A. STEPHENSON,  
33 The Cliff,  
Brighton, Sussex,  
October 22.

From Mr. T. C. Skiffington-Lodge  
Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury asserts that we are heading for chaos. If, for him, this seems true, surely we should be told precisely what he thinks is the cause of this chaos. It is not hard to see what a good start it would help many to be provided with a clearer diagnosis of the conditions he deplores before remedying them.

Even if Dr. Cogan is partly right in his "sense of chaos" this is not new here or anywhere else in the world. What I hope he will stress, more than he has done so far, is the urgent need for more fundamental long overdue changes in our society. The Gospel with those moral values he and all Christians endorse.

The Archbishop's notable predecessor at Bradford, Dr. Blunt, before he (Dr. Cogan) was translated from that diocese to York, long ago anticipated this situation and outlined what Christians should do about it. In an address delivered to his Diocesan Conference in December 1942 of which, as a politically minded Christian layman in his diocese, I was sent a copy, he stressed that Christians should do about it. In an address delivered to his Diocesan Conference in December 1942 of which, as a politically minded Christian layman in his diocese, I was sent a copy, he stressed that Christians should do about it. In an address delivered to his Diocesan Conference in December 1942 of which, as a politically minded Christian layman in his diocese, I was sent a copy, he stressed that Christians should do about it.

change it. Ambulance work at the foot of a cliff was not as Christian as steps taken to prevent others falling over it.

Dr. Cogan has clearly moved some way from the ecclesiastical and political conservatism (with a small c) which he seemed to endorse following his enthronement as a Bishop in Bradford Cathedral. Those of us Anglicans who have always endorsed the Christian Socialism preached and practised by such men as Dr. Blunt, Conrad Noel, William Temple, Fr. John Gross, of London's East End, and many others, and lately preached by prominent Roman Catholic prelates, some of whom attended Dr. Cogan's Canterbury Cathedral enthronement, must hope and pray that his new campaign will promote the radical politics/religious action needed to create a more Christianly inclined Britain whose influence in establishing a fairer society at home will then have much greater influence elsewhere in the world.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
J. C. SKIFFINGTON-LODGE,  
3 Fovis Grove,  
Brighton.

From the Reverend Paul Oestreicher  
Sir, My fellow priest Symon Beesley is right to point out in your columns (October 23) that there is widespread support for the Archbishop in his call to the nation and that for those who expect greater things of him than an ambiguous re-statement of the obvious, Ambiguous? An open letter to Dr. Cogan in the communist Morning Star is headed "Archbishop sides with the right wing." In fact he did nothing of the sort. That is just how it came across to many alienated workers.

In a radio phone-in Dr. Cogan told parish priests to study the great issues facing the nation and then not to be afraid of taking sides, even if it splits his parish. In my critical sermon (The Times, October 20) I asked no more of Dr. Cogan than to take his own advice. Both in writing and broadcasting, the Archbishop has, with great skill, avoided committing himself on any major controversial issue.

To take the risk of being wrong is part of the necessary vulnerability of the Church. I do not ask for such answers to complex problems, but commitment and humility go hand in hand. God reveals himself in specific situations. The offence of the Gospel lies in its particularity. To stand aloof and be content as a Christian is to think that the practical consequences is a much less popular one.

Asked on radio why his initiative was so unlike that of men like Martin Luther King and Trevor Huddleston, Dr. Cogan with genuine humility implied that he was not in that league. I'm not prepared to settle for that. As he has sought to challenge us all, so I challenge him to join battle with the devil and risk offending radicals and moderates alike. The Gospel is an affront to the power structures of left, right and centre. We owe our politicians this kind of demanding pastoral care. They, as well as the poor and oppressed, are in a right to know what this liberation Gospel amounts to.

I give one example: Will the serious-minded, whom Dr. Cogan addresses, support Christian Aid's call to end the sale by British private and nationalised industry of arms to poor, under-developed countries which cannot even afford food for their children? Our national aid bill last year amounted to £300m. We sold £475m worth of military hardware. Just one national obsolescence.

I can assure my friends and critics that it is neither courageous nor impudent for a priest to take his Archbishop to task. It will lead neither to preferment nor to the ecclesiastical doghouse. The Church of England is generally not that sort of animal. Critical solidarity is a form both of loyalty and of love. I know many of my nearest critics to be my best friends. It is this same critical solidarity in specific detail that we owe each other and our nation.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL OESTREICHER,  
Ascension Vicarage,  
Dartmouth Row, SE10.

## Developing nations and Zionism

From Dr. I. Berkovitch

Sir, When the developing countries "gang up" on Israel as they have been doing recently, I wonder if their action is in essence a demonstration against the relatively headless rich world. Israel has actually been in the past on particularly good terms with many of the developing countries sending them training teams experienced in similar climatic conditions and receiving their students.

But the developing world is now rightly fighting back vigorously against the pink-skinned rich world for its past imperial, and current continuing economic, exploitation. This reaction has fused in with the militant Arab campaigns specifically against Israel.

For the non-Arabs, Israel—with its small apparently vulnerable population rather out on a limb from the rest of the industrialized world—may well be seen as a much easier target than the United States, the EEC countries or the few other industrialized nations. So it is possible that the frustration of the widening gap between rich and poor peoples (except for the special case of the oil-rich group) is vented on the Israelis. It seems to me that only an interpretation along these lines can explain the exaggerated importance attached to Zionism by developing countries—countries often strongly racist or even tribal—when Zionism is irrelevant to most of them, and their true needs are for greater transfer of resources from the rich world to promote their "take-off" into development.

Yours sincerely,  
ISRAEL BERKOVITCH,  
35 Wrenfield,  
Hemel Hempstead,  
Hertfordshire,  
October 22.

From Mr. C. J. Walker  
Sir, It is puzzling that a moral philosopher of the stature of Miss Iris Murdoch should miss the central point at issue about Zionism (clearer, October 21), that it is not a universalisable political philosophy. The main axiom of Zionism is that Jews from all over the world have a prescriptive right to settle in Palestine; the rights of the native Palestinian Arabs are systematically ignored and, by implication, denied. Hence Palestinian Arabs are excluded from the brotherhood of man by Zionism; and the official stance granted by the Israeli state to its Jewish settler organisations like the Jewish National Fund confirms that this is a continuing process.

To Mr. Alan Silkin (October 21), who claims that Zionists are "creating a society based on high democratic ideals," I would pose the question: is the relevant military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the apparent refusal by Israel to let those territories go (there are now more than 60 Jewish settlements on illegally expropriated Arab land, comparable with any sort of ideals at all?)

Yours faithfully,  
C. J. WALKER,  
62 Bolnbrooke Road, W14,  
October 21.

## University elitism

From Professor Antony Flew  
Sir, Mr. Peter Scott begins the final paragraph of his grim essay on the present state and prospects of the universities (October 22): "The major objection to a policy of discrimination will be that it is simply a cloak for elitism." He then concludes with the claim: "Aneurin Bevan said that politics was the language of the privileged. To decide priorities is to discriminate."

Whether or not this is exactly what Aneurin Bevan said, it certainly is true. So this seems a good occasion to tell someone who uses the word "elitism" and accepts it as being properly a term of abuse, to explain what it is supposed to mean. As Peter Scott indicates, political radicals and others are nowadays for ever denouncing policies as elitist; while in universities we often hear vice-chancellors and other public spokesmen explaining that, while not of course being elitist, they do nevertheless rather think that the standards of academic quality ought to be maintained. Before we even begin to discuss these claims and counter-claims could we please be told what it is which makes some forms of selection for quality elitist and bad whereas others—like getting a winning sports team by picking the best available players—are innocuous or even admirable, and certainly not to be denounced as elitist?

At the beginning of last academic year I told all my first year philosophy students that, while of course they should do their essays, denounce whatever they believed they had good reason to denounce, if they were going to denounce Plato or anyone else as elitist, what they please first explain what they meant, by answering the question set above. I had to report that in the year which followed I got not one single answer in either essays or examinations. But I did not have to read any denunciations of elitism either; and that was something.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY FLEW,  
Department of Philosophy,  
University of Reading,  
October 22.

## Liberal fasting

From Mr. William Douglas Home  
Sir, Studying the photograph in your today's issue (October 24) of Mr. Jeremy Thorpe and Mr. Cyril Smith offering a pint of milk to Mr. John Campbell who is fasting in the cause of electoral reform I could not escape the thought that it might be more beneficial to all concerned if Mr. Thorpe and Mr. Campbell shared the milk and Mr. Smith took on the fasting.

Yours, etc.,  
WILLIAM DOUGLAS HOME,  
Garrick Club,  
Garrick Street, WC2,  
October 24.

## PAIN'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Spain is now entering a period of uncertainty which may have profound effects on the rest of Europe. A stable democratic Spain could be an immense asset to the European Community and to the benefits in return. Spain, chaos, or sliding back into anarchy, would be a political and economic burden and a potential threat to the balance of power in the moment almost anything is possible. Political life has an so restricted for so long that nobody can be sure of the length of the forces arrayed on the political spectrum or the deep disagreements within among the men in power in Franco.

But Spain is not Portugal. Her army has not been inflated in numbers or demoralized in spirit by colonial wars. Nor have its officers been infected by the crimes of colonial revolutionaries. It is a more European, less deeply and doctrinally ridden than the Portuguese, any of its more observant officers will also have learnt the dangers of assuming direct political power. It has divisions, and they are not only about how much interest it could take in politics. There are some officers who will resist any moves toward democracy. There are many who will see the line at legalizing the communist Party. There are younger officers who have

formed an organization of still uncertain importance called the Democratic Military Union. Military pressures will not necessarily be consistent, but they will tend to be conservative.

The strongest pressures for democracy come from the business men and economists who see it as their key to membership of the European Community as well as the best way of channelling political forces unleashed by a change of leadership. Although Spain has had very rapid economic growth, and there are troubles ahead which could be reduced by closer links with the Community. In any case, western Europe is Spain's main market, so it is the natural direction in which to look.

For industrial interests a legal Communist Party may seem a lesser evil than an underground movement which could be tempted to build up its support by fomenting trouble among workers and separatist groups. This will be one of the key issues for new leaders, and it is not as easy one. The Spanish communists, led by Sr. Santiago Carrillo from Paris, are generally closer to Rome than to Moscow. They have been seeking with only limited success to form a coalition of socialist parties. Whatever their ultimate motives, they are a force to be reckoned with and they will be in a strong

position to argue that if Spain is to join Europe they should enjoy the same democratic rights as other western European communists. On the whole, it would probably be good tactics for the government to agree and get what benefit it can from the desire of the communists to prove their respectability and their independence from Moscow.

In the short term the more serious threats come from extreme forces—the left and right, and from the reaction which they could provoke among the more conservative members of the armed forces. For instance, fairly substantial concessions would be necessary to buy off the more extreme elements among the Basque nationalists. These might be dangerous in themselves and would be strongly resisted from other quarters. In addition there will undoubtedly be groups whose main interest will be to create as much confusion as possible.

Nevertheless, it is not naive to retain some optimism. In the main centres of power, in the army, the Church, the middle classes, and among the leaders of commerce and industry, there are enough cautious democrats to prevail if they can only manage to agree on the right compromise between moving so fast that things get out of control and so slowly that frustration builds up. The pace of change will be as vital as the direction.

## Royal Free Hospital

From Professor P. K. Thomas

Sir, The Times Diary has recently included a number of features that have been largely ignored by the Royal Free Hospital. No attempt was made to verify many of the statements and none to represent the views of the hospital staff concerned except for quotations carefully selected by your columnist. As the consultant kept the wife of one of your staff waiting, perhaps I may be allowed to comment.

I think that the public should be aware of the fact that the staff of the National Health Service is having to operate in the present climate of financial restriction. I book as many patients into my clinic as seems feasible in order to keep down the waiting list, and I am sure that this is a desirable aim. This usually works out satisfactorily, allowing for the proportion of patients who arrive late or who fail to keep their appointments without notifying the hospital. As it happens, on the occasion mentioned all the patients booked kept their appointments, hence the unwarranted delay. The unsatisfactory situation of patients being kept waiting in the clinics and the undesirable length of waiting time for appointments could immediately be rectified if the requests for additional staffing that have been made were implemented. This has not been possible because of the current financial restrictions.

Your columnist commented that the distress of the wife of your staff member as she waited in the clinic went unheeded. It was not stated that her distress was not mentioned to any member of the clinic staff but her husband decided to take her away. Had he mentioned this fact, with the consent of other patients, alternative arrangements could have been made. The last feature by your columnist was open to the interpretation that the patient's unfortunate death at a subsequent date was in some way the consequence of her not having been seen in the clinic. It is of course not

possible to go into medical details but this interpretation, which has been made by a number of your readers, is entirely incorrect.

Yours faithfully,  
P. K. THOMAS,  
Department of Neurology,  
The Royal Free Hospital,  
Post Street, Hampstead, NW3,  
October 21.

## The right of reply

From Mr. Denis MacShane

Sir, This letters column bears daily witness to the principle of the reader's right to reply when something with which he disagrees appears elsewhere in your pages. I had thought that this right and length apart it was a general convention that newspaper editors did not lay down conditions as to the content of a letter before publishing a reader's reply to some disputed article.

Now, however, the Press Council appears to have awarded the editor the right to decide the tone and content of any letter of reply. I refer to the Press Council's decision The Times, Tuesday, October 21, in favour of the editor of the Brighton Evening Argus who refused to publish a letter from the local NUJ branch chairman in reply to a leading article that appeared in his paper. According to your report the editor of the Evening Argus would have welcomed a "sensible" letter but would not print the original letter from the NUJ branch chairman. Now what constitutes a "sensible" letter in a contentious matter depends on which side of the argument you stand.

The NUJ branch chairman felt that he had written a "sensible" letter, and quite properly did not wish to re-write it to conform to an idea of what was "sensible" laid down by the other party in the argument. If editors are to close their letters columns to letters which they do not approve as being sufficiently "sensible" then the

reader's right to reply seems a very limited right indeed. Although I am concerned that on this important issue (the leader and letter were to do with press freedom and the NUJ) the NUJ was not permitted to reply in any way, I am more disturbed about the Press Council's decision diminishing the reader's right of reply. I hope they will reconsider their finding.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS MACSHANE,  
National Executive Council, NUJ,  
As from 22 Elmfield Crescent,  
Birmingham 13,  
October 21.

## Do-it-yourself

From Dr. E. H. Bateman

Sir, D-I-Y celebrities, posing in their dungarees for your photographers, should heed the Billaire Bellou caveat: "Lord Copper tried to mend the electric light himself; it struck him dead and served him right; it is the business of the wealthy man to give employment to the artisan."

Yours faithfully,  
E. H. BATEMAN,  
Sandridge Cottage,  
Upper Bourne,  
Farnham, Surrey,  
October 18.

## A secretary's pay

From Mrs. Rosemary Davis

Sir, When one sees advertised in your columns a secretarial post with the National Coal Board at a salary of £2,800-£3,400, with six weeks' holidays a year, in luxurious offices, it is easy to understand why we are crippled by fuel bills every winter.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY DAVIS,  
2 Rose Cottages,  
Mill Street,  
Hastingwood,  
Harlow Common,  
Essex,  
October 22.

## aying for pleasure

From Mr. John Witherington

Unfortunately it would seem that Arthur Koestler has been forced in his suggestion (October 15) to solve the nation's economic ills. Working on the principle that "the more you enjoy yourself the more you ought to pay for it" (as in *Gulliver's Travels* (Book III, Chapter 16)), Koestler's professor who proposes that those qualities of body and

mind for which men chiefly value themselves... The highest tax was upon men who are the greatest favourites of the other sex, and the assessments according to the number and nature of the favours they have received; for which they are allowed to be their own vouchers... But as to honour, justice, wisdom and learning, they should not be taxed at all, because they are qualifications of so singular a kind, that no man will either allow them in his neighbour, or value them in himself."

However, should such a proposal be implemented I would venture that this method adheres more strictly to the definition of "value-added tax" than does its modern namesake, and would save the nation much by forgoing the necessity of changing all VAT rubber stamps to read "VAT."

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WITHERINGTON,  
The Hawthorns,  
108 Priests Lane, Sheffield, S1,  
October 17.















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Belgium Fr	84.50	81.50
Canada \$	2.165	2.115
Denmark Kr	16.99	17.30
Finland Mk	8.10	7.85
France Fr	9.25	8.95
Germany DM	5.48	5.25
Greece Dr	72.50	67.00
Hongkong \$	10.60	10.20
India Ru	1550.00	1495.00
Japan Yn	650.00	625.00
Netherlands Gld	5.58	5.35
Norway Kr	11.55	11.00
Peru Sol	9.00	70.00
S Africa Rd	1.84	1.71
Spain Pes	127.00	121.75
Sweden Kr	9.25	8.95
Switzerland Fr	5.55	5.35
US \$	2.111	2.061
Yugoslavia Dnr	42.50	39.00

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### Study of properties of the April, 1957 and predictions for delayed flight of inter- national Establishments in 1958-59



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Law

## Recompense for innocent victims

The car bomb in Campden Hill Square, London, on Thursday brings home the vulnerability of innocent passers-by.

Fortunately the Government has, since 1964, been prepared to compensate innocent victims of violence or, where death occurs, their families. Unfortunately, the compensation scheme is not as widely known as it should be. Operating from Russell Square, London, WC1, it is one of the few public bodies which actually welcomes claims. Last year it paid out more than £5m.

One of the concerns of Sir Walker Carter, the board's chairman, is that not enough people appear to know that they can get compensation under the scheme. Admittedly, claims under £50 are not entertained, but it is clear from the statistics of violent crime that a great many more people ought to be making claims than are doing so at present.

One of the reasons may be that as yet the police are under no directive to advise a victim of his rights. Another factor may be the board's inability to make any allowance for legal costs, so the claimant must meet them himself, whether or not his claim is successful.

In practice there is an advantage in using a solicitor, because he will be able to evaluate the prospects of success and will advise against pursuing a claim which is ill-founded. In fact, about half of all claimants get legal advice and the statistics show that those who do so stand a better chance of success.

Who can make a claim? Basically anyone injured as the direct result of a crime of violence. Violence includes arson and poisoning.

The scheme also covers someone injured when "having a go" before the police arrive, or assisting them after they arrive to prevent a crime or arrest a suspect.

One of the most important exclusions from the scheme is that it does not operate where people are living together as members of the same family.

Compensation takes the form of a lump sum which is assessed by the board on the same basis as courts of law assess damages in injury cases. So far, the largest single claim awarded under the scheme is £51,000.

In assessing how much to allow, the board will take into account pain and suffering caused by the injury, loss of earnings and future earning capacity, plus out-of-pocket expenses—for example fares to the hospital for treatment and replacing or repairing clothing.

Ronald Irving

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## Talking shop

## Are you sold on continental quilts?

Bedding is an important addition to the cost of setting up house which people tend to take for granted. Yet the cost of kitting out one single bed can total at least £50 for even the most basic of covers, and is more likely to be nearer double that sum.

For this reason alone the sweeping spread of continental quilts in Britain during the past five years or so has taken the experts by surprise. Retailers and manufacturers alike did not expect so many housewives to abandon their costly blankets to reinvest in equally or more expensive quilts.

However, it has now become apparent to all that continental quilts are here to stay and that sales are not confined to people setting up house for the first time. Initially available in only one or two makes sold via mail order, they are now stocked by all the big store groups and manufactured under a multitude of brand names.

A Which? survey, published last year, examined no fewer than 58 varieties of quilt and since then many new names have appeared on the market. The trouble today, with prices ranging from about £11 to over £200, is in making a wise choice from the selection available.

Unlike other, more established product areas, brand names other than retailers' own labels are not likely to be of much help in gauging quality and comparing prices. There are a few names like Dunlopillo which are already well known for their other products, but these are few and far between. The prospective buyer can therefore expect little help from the manufacturer in making a choice. He must rely on his own resources and/or the reputation of the retailer from whom he buys.

It is important to realize that it is the type and quality of filling which is the main element in determining the price of the quilt. The traditional filling is down and feathers, from water fowl, the finest of which comes from eider ducks.

Broadly speaking, three types of filling are used: synthetic fillings such as Terylene, Ted Decron; feathers and down which must contain at least 15 per cent of down; and down which must have no more than 15 per cent of feathers, according to a British standard specification (BS 2005).

There are other fillings, such as down and feathers, which must contain at least 51 per cent by weight of down and wool. But these appear to be less widely available. There are also variations in sizes, particularly those for double beds, and the standards of covers and thickness of filling, which have an effect on price.

The standard single size is 54 by 78 inches which allows 18 inches overlap for a 3ft bed. But double sizes can be 72, 78, 81 or 90 inches wide, which can make a big difference in price and comfort. Because of the wide variations in "double size" we opted for the single size in comparing prices.

Opinions vary about the effectiveness of the different fillings but down, since it is the lightest and warmest, is generally considered to be best and it is certainly the most

## A GUIDE TO PRICES

Store	Make	Synthetic	Feather & down	Down
MARKS & SPENCER	Own brand (Single bed size)	£11.00	£14.50 (Must contain minimum of 15% down)	£21.00
WOOLWORTHS (Victoria)	Own brand	—	—	£12.49*
	Walker-Clarke	£9.49*	£11.49*	—
DEBENHAMS (Oxford Street, London, branch)	Slumberdown	£9.95	—	£26.95
	Own brand	£11.50	—	—
JOHN LEWIS (Oxford Street, London, branch)	Own brand	£10.50	£14.50	£15.50 (Special offer reduced from £21.00)
SELFRIDGES	McIntock	—	£19.75	£28.75
	Own brand	£11.00	—	—
	Holstepp	£13.95	£29.00	£38.95
	Snugg	—	£12.95	£15.95 (Special offer from £27.00)
	Snuggledown	—	—	£33.95
PLUMBS—Mail order (Preston) (Incl 45p for P & P)	—	£11.40	£13.40	£20.35
SRO—Mail order (Kettering) (Carriage included in advertised price)	Skandakker	—	£11.95	—
ORIGINAL SLEEP CO Mail order (Edinburgh) (Incl 40p for P & P)	—	£10.35	£12.35	£23.35

expensive. The most costly quilt we found was made from eider duck down, sold in Harrods and costs £225, the cheapest down quilt was a Woolworths own label and cost £12.49, but the type of down was unspecified.

Most of the down quilts Which? tested came from Chinese or East European ducks. Next most expensive were the mixtures of down with feathers. The cheapest of the feather and down quilts found was again from Woolworths at £11.49, closely followed by a mail order offer advertised last weekend by SRO at £11.95 and by a Snugg brand quilt from Selfridges at £12.95. Upwards however, prices could range from £20 and more.

In this category, it should be remembered that, with a requirement for a minimum of 15 per cent of down, there is wide scope for variation in the mixture.

Least costly, and showing the least variation in price of all the quilts, were those made from synthetic fillings with prices averaging round the £11 to £12 mark although it is possible to buy for less than £10. This is also the sector where there is most participation with retailers' own labels.

Apart from preferences based on warmth, weight, allergy potential, washability is a factor which should be borne in mind when buying a quilt. This is obviously more important when the quilt doubles for caravanning, camping and the like or is being bought for someone in ill health or a child.

The synthetic quilts stand up best to washing and Which? found that there was little difference in this respect between the various types. Some of the feather and down mixtures are also said to be washable, but Which? found that all lost some warmth—up to 20 per cent and some shrank. Many

did not feel as soft after as before washing.

It is necessary to have down, and down and feather mixture, quilts dry cleaned and even this may not be very successful unless a specialist service is used.

For cleanliness a washable cover is generally used with quilts, and these can add significantly to the overall cost. The most popular types of cover are polyester/cotton, or cotton, and prices of these ranged from £12 downwards to about £6.

Thus, if two covers are bought (and this is the practical minimum), they can easily cost as much as the quilt itself. It may be possible to make some savings by making the cover at home, but a quick calculation based on the use of sheeting material showed that there is likely to be only about a £1 difference between the cheapest of the bought covers and one made at home. Against the cost of the cover, however, can be offset the cost of a single sheet, because in theory only a bottom sheet should be used to gain maximum warmth from the quilt. But Which? found that nearly 20 per cent of its members in fact used a top sheet as well as the quilt, so any saving on sheets may not be realistic.

For synthetic quilts the average out of the 10 prices we surveyed worked out at £11.20. For feather and down mixture quilts the average price was £15.50, and for down quilts the average price was £23.40. For covers the average price for a single bed size worked out at £6.70 each.

One final point to be considered before you invest in your quilt, is how long you can expect it to last. The answer seems to depend entirely on your treatment of it, especially where washing and cleaning is concerned.

Traditionally, on the Continent a down quilt was expected to last for a lifetime, but then it was never washed but hung out each morning to air instead. While the modern variety, particularly those with synthetic fillings, have not been expected to last for a lifetime, but then it was never washed but hung out each morning to air instead.

However, some manufacturers do offer 10-year guarantees.

Patricia Tisdall

## Come back, Londoners, all is forgiven!

I see that the Location of Offices Bureau is still bashing away at its campaign to prize firms out of London into the country, driving their employees all mad with longing for rural delights—such as swallows' nests in the director's dining room, the security staff dressed as gamekeepers, and the lesser spotted celandine peeping out from behind the photocopying machine.

It worries me a bit that they may be too successful. "Marvellous, the outdoor life," trumpets the managing director. "I am sure we'll all get used to it in no time. Look, Mr Fosdyke's out-tray has moss growing in it already."

And off they gallop to their brand new wattle and daub office blocks in Piddie Treathie, delighted to be rid of the soaring rates, dustmen's strikes, wet mackintoshes and bus queues that characterize the life of the London office worker.

However, if too many begin to leave, the situation will get much worse for those who stay, and we'll start suffering from more of that New York syndrome that I was telling you about recently. As it is, every other shop and office block has a "to let" sign hanging out of the window nowadays, and (a sure indication that the end of the world is nigh) it is even possible to get a secretary without giving her a handshake when she joins the firm, let alone leaves it.



"The Bentley, Johnson, and the Gloucester head office by 11.45"

With everybody either disappearing into thin air leaving behind a strong smell of burnt fingers, or moving out of London like sheep at the behest of the LOB, it won't be long before the GLC and that lot are feeling the squeeze on their income. This will mean that everyone who's left will have to pay even more, which will accelerate the tendency of rats to leave the sinking ship.

Those who stick it out to the bitter end will find that not only will the rates have become crippling high, but also that they will get less and less for their money, until they reach the point where they are paying solely for the maintenance of the GLC chairman's

Rolls—which will have to double up as fire engine, ambulance and Black Maria when needed.

When this moment comes, watch out for the Location of Offices Bureau changing rapidly into reverse, stripping its gear-box in the process, with an enormously expensive campaign to encourage offices to move back again into the middle of London.

Savour the bustle and bustle of Europe's swingeing City. Recapture the thrill of hearing an argument between two Cockney taxi drivers. Experiment with the best Indian and Chinese cuisine the world has to offer. Lead the fashion—come and look

through our hundreds, nay thousands of offices at £23 per sq ft.

"Do you realise that in Little Manwood your secretary could be bitten by a viper on her way to work? Don't you find that the slow pace of rural life ruins that sense of urgency essential to all well conducted businesses?"

"With only a five-minute walk to the office every day, no wonder that immediately your staff clock in they then start yawning, their heads off; they're only out of bed a quarter of an hour before, like as not. So why let them die on their feet out there, when you could so easily give them an injection of urban vigour to set your profits ringing merrily again?"

"And think of all those riverside, never-to-be-forgotten things they can do in the lunch hour. They'll love listening to the speakers on Tower Hill, visiting the Elgin Marbles and Madame Tussaud's, or just feeding the pigeons in Trafalgar Square."

"A million holidaymakers come to London every year from all over the world to refresh themselves with its warm welcome and myriad amenities. How can you just sit there and deprive your staff of this unique opportunity? Come back, all is forgiven."

Who knows, that way they may even let Centre Point in the end.

Francis Kinsman

## Problems in the housing market

The building society movement, flush with funds of £4,000m though it may be, still has worries. The most important of these relate to the slow rate of private housebuilding and lack of significant trading up in the second-hand housing market.

Leonard Hyde, the general manager of the Leeds Permanent Building Society, summed up the first situation: house prices at the lower end of the market are not high enough to allow housebuilders to compete at similar prices with new houses.

"Builders," he said earlier in the week, "sell earlier in the week, but it takes time to go up by 10 per cent. And I would not disagree."

This brings up the second problem highlighted by Basil Eckhard, general manager of the Leicester Building Society. There are clear signs of opposing forces at work in the housing market with a reluctance to "trade up" because of job fears, rising domestic costs and renewed doubts on the mortgage tax relief position," he said this week.

The first two of these are inescapable, but surely the Government could give a statement of intent about mortgage tax relief—in the interests of everyone who either owns a mortgaged house or aspires to do so?

CTT: Readers ask

## Interest free loans • Higher education

The articles on capital transfer tax have generated a great deal of interest among readers and as there is insufficient space to deal with all the inquiries in this end-of-the-month round-up I will also devote next week's article to answering letters.

A reader writes: "In a recent article on capital transfer tax, did I read that the interest payable with the repayment of overpaid capital transfer tax was not subject to tax?"

Yes, the interest of 9 per cent is disregarded for tax purposes. The consequences is that the higher the tax rates paid by the taxpayer, the more the interest will be worth.

For the individual paying income tax at the basic rate of 35 per cent, interest of 9 per cent net is equivalent to a gross of 13.85 per cent. For those who have a tax rate of 40 per cent the gross equivalent moves up to 15.00 per cent, and so on until at the extreme end of the scale 9 per cent net is worth a gross 450 per cent! Where else can one get this sort of return?

One reader has written to remind me that I have not answered his letter sent to me some time ago concerning loan interest. This subject has covered some five weeks ago, but as it raises a matter that is causing widespread concern it is worth another look.

He says: "I have heard it suggested that the interest on loans is caught by the new tax in this case, and if so what extent?"

"I am in a farming partnership with my son—my capital is £550 and my son's £550. With inflation, the shortage of grass and hay, and fantastic prices for the latter, I have been making losses in this partnership to ease matters—they have amounted to £2,200 this year—and have always been for less than a year."

"Would your answer be any different if the loan was for a longer period? There must, I think, be many people who lead their farming relatives money, probably free of interest."

When discussing the mid-avoidance provisions directed at CTT I referred to the attack that has been made on free loans (including the shortage of money at less than a commercial rate of interest) and on the rent-free use of property (or at below a commercial rent).

Some readers get too anxious about this and let me quickly point out that the legislators realise they have drawn the parameters far too wide and have suspended its operation until April 6, 1976. By this time they hope to have re-worked the section in more precise terms.

The reason for this piece of law is not difficult to understand. If, say, father wishes to set his son up in business with a capital of £10,000, he may decide to lend him the money (interest free rather than give it, to save capital transfer tax).

There is no CTT on the loan itself, provided it is technically repayable on demand—although in practice, it probably would not be called in until father dies. If this sort of transaction was allowed to proceed untouched by CTT it would encourage the making of loans instead of an outright gift.

So what it is proposed will happen is that for each tax year throughout the duration of the loan the interest forgone (at whatever rate the inland revenue considers to be the commercial rate) will be treated as a gift. Or, it is a question of free use of property, the rent forgone will be treated as a gift.

All this creates a problem for partners and directors who lend money to their firms and companies free of interest or below the commercial rate.

It is for these reasons that the operation of the section has been delayed until next April. A transaction at arm's length between persons not connected with each other is excluded from this section, but this does not help the reader as he is likely to be "connected" with his son.

The final question for this week concerns family maintenance. A reader tells me: "I have read somewhere that gifts from individual parents to a child may exceed £1,000 per annum and be exempt from CTT if the money is used for the child's education."

"Our daughter, aged 24, single, is doing a medical course at Bath's 1975-76. Previously she had taken a BA in French at Leicester University. I appreciate that my wife and I could divide our daughter's annual 'maintenance' approximately £1,400 between us, and that he is exempt from CTT, but it would be more convenient for me to make the payment. Is this latter course possible and exempt from CTT?"

This reader will be protected by Section 46 of the 1963 Finance Act. An exemption is given to payments made by parent for the maintenance, education or training of their child up to the age of 18 years, and thereafter provided the child is undergoing full-time education or training. Incidentally "child" includes an illegitimate child.

John Drummond

Vera Di Palma



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Shares close firmly before Mr Slater's statement

The week ended with a further rise in share prices after selective buying by the major institutions. Fresh evidence from the Prices Commission that the UK rate of inflation is now falling helped the market and news of a cut in prime rate by Citibank of New York was also well received.

The FT index closed 53 up at 3567, which was just below the day's best level. Turnover remained fairly thin, with recorded bargains at 5.80p. Equity deals on Thursday were worth only £38.8m, which indicates that the pension funds, unit trusts and other major institutional investors played a restrained role in the rise in the market.

There was another good day, but remained rather quiet. Reductions in American prime rates had been expected and so had no effect on prices, but the undertone remained firm.

Shares in BP face a significant test, points as the FT index closed at 3567, which was just below the day's best level. Turnover remained fairly thin, with recorded bargains at 5.80p. Equity deals on Thursday were worth only £38.8m, which indicates that the pension funds, unit trusts and other major institutional investors played a restrained role in the rise in the market.

The greater part of the rise

in equities could be measured by the rise in the FT index within the first two hours of trading. It was the industrial sections which saw most of the interest. Consumer stocks, remained unsettled by the indications that recession is biting into domestic spending.

A weak feature in the closing minutes were shares in Slater Walker Securities, which plunged to 35p after the board had refused to comment on "market rumours". The resignation of Mr Slater came after market hours.

Strong features included Unilever, well bought at 400p, ahead of trading results for the third quarter, which are due in the next account, and EMI, which moved up after confirmation that the new X-ray techniques have now been applied to body-scanning equipment.

Gains of several pence were also chalked up against ICI (296p), Courtaulds (141p), and Bechtel (319p). Reed International moved up to 230p after disclosing interim figures comfortably above the market range of predictions.

The heavy engineering shares

Engineering which touched 325p on rumours of a "bonus rights issue", only to run back to 315p as the market remembered the Treasury statement earlier in the week.

On the electricals pitch, there was demand for shares in Eveready Bids, finally 6p up at 111p on good interim profit figures. Chloride Bids moved higher, also, McKee Bros were another to benefit from a recent trading statement.

But Hunting Gibson provided a weak spot in shipping, with a fall of 10p to 137p on a poor first-half trading outcome. Furness Withy at 277p faded from the scene as the bid speculators grew uncertain. But P & O moved up to 106p as investors noted that they had been overlooked in this week's rise.

Some say that Totalisator and Greyhound Holdings, which are in a holding, has run ahead of the game at 13p. Anglo Siam Bids moved up to 106p as investors noted that they had been overlooked in this week's rise.

Banking issues were firm, although the spotlight fell on Slater Walker Securities whose loan stock was also a weak feature during the day. Commercial Union (154p) and Guardian Royal Exchange (204p) edged forward. Property shares looked better, although talk of a major financial failure continued to circulate in the market.

Oil shares did well but slipped back in late dealings when United States investors were selling in London. But Shell (274p after 275p) looked confident ahead of the trading result due shortly.

With the bid terms from Pearl offering the speculators nothing further to go for,

shares in New London Properties fell back from 250p (the bid price) to 235p in late dealings.

Gold shares were unsettled from the outset by rumours, later confirmed, that South African troops had crossed into Angola. Closing losses in FS Gold (221p), P. Brand (181p) and P. Steyn (112p) ranged to around 1p. Equity turnover on Thursday was worth £38.8m (14,614 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Grand Metropolitan, ICI Gas, new, Barclays Bank, Northern Foods, new, Gussies "A", Dunlop, Brit Home Stores and Boots.

## Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord	Year	Pay	Year's	Prev
	div	ago	date	total	year
Alcon & Sons (10p) Int	0.35	0.15	13/2	—	1.01
Anglo Siam (5p) Fin	0.41	0.10	13/12	0.36	0.52
British Electric (10p) Fin	0.75	0.70	6/1	0.76	0.70
Coalbrookdale (5p) Int	0.25	0.20	2/1	—	0.77
R. H. Cole (25p) Int	1.47	1.32	15/1	—	3.05
Construction Bids (10p) Fin	5.2	5.45	28/1	—	5.45
Countryside Prop (5p) Int	0.11	0.11	—	—	—
R. & A. G. (25p) Int	0.31	0.21	29/1	—	1.04
Doane Surgical (10p) Int	0.7	0.7	12/1	—	20
Eveready (25p) Int	0.87	0.87	—	—	3.18
Geers Bros (10p) Int	1.46	1.46	5/12	—	3.52
Harrison & Sons (25p) Int	1.49	1.49	1/12	—	2.71
P. C. Henderson (10p) Int	1.25	1.25	25/11	—	3.26
Arthur H. Richards (10p) Int	0.35	0.35	—	—	1.67
J. H. H. (10p) Fin	1.47	1.47	2/1	2.08	2.14
Lyon & Lyon (25p) Int	0.87	0.87	1/1	—	1.89
W. E. Norton (5p) Int	0.11	0.11	19/12	—	1.32
Postle (10p) Fin	0.11	0.11	—	1.40	1.24
Do. Do	1.20	1.40	8/1	1.50	1.40
Reed International (21p) Int	5.95	5.17	8/1	16.38	16.38
Stoneway (25p) Fin	6.3	6.3	28/11	7.0	7.0

† Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. † Forecast.

† Adjusted for scrip.

## Market recovery • Shares issue restraints

per cent in the equity market over the week indicates a significant recovery in the market and the news that money supply is rising ahead. Market indices pushed to recent barriers and now seem set for a further rise.

At least, as if this were the case, the market would clamp down on the space of rights issue in the way in which it has been doing in the past. The market is normally permissive to a growing number of rights issues as a way of lifting the share price. But the market is increasingly wary of the general rise in the market.

At least, as if this were the case, the market would clamp down on the space of rights issue in the way in which it has been doing in the past. The market is normally permissive to a growing number of rights issues as a way of lifting the share price. But the market is increasingly wary of the general rise in the market.

## Taylor tries a housebuilder

setback in property shares might be a good opportunity to pick up other situations. For the moment, however, he thinks he will try his luck with speculative housebuilder Royco. Although Royco has recently reported an encouraging set of interim results, which maintained net dividend, and operates at the bottom end of the housing market where prices have been reported to be moving up over the last few months, the shares at 20p, are yielding 15 per cent, much higher than the average for the housebuilding sector.

This rating has much to do with the uncertainties over First National Finance Corporation's 21.7 per cent stake in the company, and the fact that much of the group borrowings are also from the stricken secondary banking company. This problem in shares in common with Fairview. But FNFC is now attempting to sell

off its remaining strategic interests and a placing of Royco shares at some point must be the result.

This should remove one of the chief restraining factors on the share price, while, in the meantime, Royco has a good prop in the form of the dividend yield, given that the final dividend at least be maintained this year.

At this point Bill has an apology to make. His sale of Unisel last month after its miserable performance because of the collapsing gold price forgot to take account of the dollar premium. As one sharp-eyed reader has pointed out, Bill would have to concede on selling his Unisel shares one quarter of the premium element that is included in the London jobbers' price.

Over the past few months this has amounted to about 10 per cent of the gross sale value, which has to be deducted from the sale proceeds. But the stockbroker's commission, also taken into account in our figures below, is based on the inclusive price.

So the loss on his investment in Unisel is £655, not £584, as stated last month.

Meanwhile, Bill is hoping to pick up 1,000 Royco at around 20p per share on Monday.

FE

## Taylor's portfolio: progress so far

Quantity Date Buying Present price price (loss)

Westwood 2,000 12/5/75 51p 51p (37)

City 3,000 1/9/75 19p 18p (126)

Holdings 1,000 29/9/75 21p 19p (29)

Realized profit: 482

Profit to date 200

selling expenses.

FE

## Women and insurance

As we are reckoned heavily under-insured, how much more under-insured women than men?

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**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began, Oct. 20. Dealings End Oct. 31. \$ Contango Day, Nov. 3. Settlement Day, Nov. 11  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

### THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices for 28.10.15 (base date) and 28.10.16 (current base date) 28.10.15 = 1000 = 1

	Index 28.10.15	Div. Yield	Yield 28.10.16	% Premium
The Times Industrial Share Index	168.22	4.25	18.85	145.37
Largest Industrial Share Index	168.22	4.25	18.85	145.37
Capital Goods	167.75	4.25	18.85	145.85
Consumer Goods	168.22	4.25	18.85	145.37
Public Utilities	168.22	4.25	18.85	145.37
Government Stocks	168.22	4.25	18.85	145.37
Share Stocks	168.22	4.25	18.85	145.37
Largest Financial Share Index	181.75	5.37	19.27	145.37
Largest Financial and Industrial Share Index	175.85	5.25	19.24	145.37
Commonwealth Stocks	222.14	4.97	12.54	228.65
Gold Mining Shares	470.20	8.04	70.65	496.61
Industrial Preference Stocks	71.15	2.95*	—	77.13
Industrial Preference Stocks	65.04	2.46*	—	43.73
Def. War Loans	204	35.00*	—	25

A record of the Times Industrial Share Indices is given below.

	High	Low
21-10-15	130.47 (130.08.72)	69.12 (68.72.74)
22-10	129.15 (130.08.24)	69.12 (68.72.74)
23-10	128.55 (130.08.24)	69.12 (68.72.74)
24-10	128.55 (130.08.24)	69.12 (68.72.74)
25-10	128.55 (130.08.24)	69.12 (68.72.74)
26-10	128.55 (130.08.24)	69.12 (68.72.74)
27-10	128.55 (130.08.24)	69.12 (68.72.74)
28-10	128.55 (130.08.24)	69.12 (68.72.74)

\* First interest paid.











